WILLIAM McKINLEY

A BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

By

A. ELWOOD CORNING

TO
MY MOTHER

We dwell on his statesmanship with pride,
We love, of his life, its Christ-like side.

His trusting faith in the All-Wise One,
"It is God's way; His will be done."
His loving care of his faihtful wife,
Ev'ry day of a busy life;
His thoughtful word for the deadly foe,
"Let no one harm him." Aye, we know
He must have sat at the Master's feet,
To speak forgiveness so complete.
"Nearer, my God, to Thee," his prayer,
"E'en though it be a cross," to bear.
Comforting words for the faithful heart
Who knew the hour had come to part.
The "good-bye, all" at life's ebbing tide,
A message to our nation wide;
No one forgotten—his great heart knew
The grief his people must pass through.
With sorrowing hearts we kneel and pray,
"God's will be done, not ours," alway.

We dwell on his statesmanship with pride,
We love, of his life, its Christ-like side.

M. WINCHESTER ADAMS.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

by

President Roosevelt

As delivered at Canton, Ohio
in 1903

McKINLEY IN THE LIBRARY AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Reproduced by courtesy of Collier's Weekly.

WILLIAM McKINLEY

A BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

BY

A. ELWOOD CORNING

With Introductory Address
by President Roosevelt

Illustrated

BROADWAY PUBLISHING CO.
NEW YORK
1907

LIBRARY of CONGRESS
Two Copies Received
APR 29 1907
Copyright Entry
Apr. 29. 1907
CLASS A XXc., No.
175406.
COPY B.

E 711
.6
C81

Copyright, 1907
BY
A. Elwood Corning

William McKinley

An Address

BY

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

Throughout our history, and, indeed, throughout history generally, it has been given to only a very few thrice-favored men to take so marked a lead in the crises faced by their several generations that thereafter each stands as the embodiment of the triumphant effort of his generation. President McKinley was one of these men.

If during the lifetime of a generation no crisis occurs sufficient to call out in marked manner the energies of the strongest leader, then, of course, the world does not and can not know of the existence of such a leader; and in consequence there are long periods in the history of every nation during which no man appears who leaves an indelible mark in history. If, on the other hand, the crisis is one so many-sided as to call for the development and exercise of many distinct attributes, it may be that more than one man will appear in order that the requirements shall be fully met. In the Revolution and in the period of constructive statesmanship immediately following it, for our good fortune it befell

us that the highest military and the highest civic attributes were embodied in Washington, and so in him we have one of the undying men of history—a great soldier; if possible, an even greater statesman, and, above all, a public servant whose lofty and disinterested patriotism rendered his power and ability—alike on fought fields and in council chambers —of the most far-reaching service to the republic. In the Civil War the two functions were divided, and Lincoln and Grant will stand forevermore with their names inscribed on the honor roll of those who have deserved well of mankind by saving to humanity a precious heritage. In similar fashion Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson each stands as the foremost representative of the great movement of his generation, and their names symbolize to us their times and the hopes and aspirations of their times.

It was given to President McKinley to take the foremost place in our political life at a time when our country was brought face to face with problems more momentous than any whose solution we have ever attempted, save only in the Revolution and in the Civil War; and it was under his leadership that the nation solved these mighty problems aright. Therefore he shall stand in the eyes of history not merely as the first man of his generation, but as among the greatest figures in our national life, coming second only to the men of the two great crises in which the Union was founded and preserved.

No man could carry through successfully such a task as President McKinley undertook unless trained by long years of effort for its performance. Knowledge of his fellow-citizens, ability to understand them, keen sympathy with even their innermost feelings, and yet power to lead them, together with far-sighted sagacity and resolute belief both in the people and in their future—all these were needed in the man who headed the march of our people during the event-

ful years from 1896 to 1901. These were the qualities possessed by McKinley, and developed by him throughout his whole history previous to assuming the Presidency. As a lad he had the inestimable privilege of serving, first in the ranks, and then as a commissioned officer, in the great war for national union, righteousness and grandeur; he was one of those whom a kindly Providence permitted to take part in a struggle which ennobled every man who fought therein. He who when little more than a boy had seen the grim steadfastness which after four years of giant struggle restored the Union and freed the slave was not thereafter to be daunted by danger or frightened out of his belief in the great destiny of our people.

Some years after the war closed McKinley came to Congress, and rose, during a succession of terms, to leadership in his party in the lower house. He also became Governor of his native State, Ohio. During this varied service he received practical training of the kind most valuable to him when he became Chief Executive of the nation. To the high faith of his early years was added the capacity to realize his ideals, to work with his fellow-men at the same time that he led them.

President McKinley's rise to greatness had in it nothing of the sudden, nothing of the unexpected or seemingly accidental. Throughout his long term of service in Congress there was a steady increase alike in his power of leadership and in the recognition of that power both by his associates in public life and by the public itself. Session after session his influence in the House grew greater; his party antagonists grew to look upon him with constantly increasing respect; his party friends with constantly increasing faith and admiration. Eight years before he was nominated for President he was already considered a Presidential possibility. Four years before he was nominated only his own high sense of

honor prevented his being made a formidable competitor of the chief upon whom the choice of the convention then actually fell. In 1896 he was chosen because the great mass of his party knew him and believed in him, and regarded him as symbolizing their ideals, as representing their aspirations. In estimating the forces which brought about his nomination and election I do not undervalue that devoted personal friendship which he had the faculty to inspire in so marked a degree among the ablest and most influential leaders; this leadership was of immense consequence in bringing about the result; but, after all, the prime factor was the trust in and devotion to him felt by the great mass of men who had come to accept him as their recognized spokesman. In his nomination the national convention of a great party carried into effect in good faith the deliberate judgment of that party as to who its candidate should be.

But even as a candidate President McKinley was far more than the candidate of a party, and as President he was in the broadest and fullest sense the President of all the people of all sections of the country.

His first nomination came to him because of the qualities he had shown in healthy and open political leadership, the leadership which by word and deed impresses itself as a virile force for good upon the people at large, and which has nothing in common with mere intrigue or manipulation. But in 1896 the issue was fairly joined, chiefly upon a question which, as a party question, was entirely new, so that the old lines of political cleavage were in large part abandoned. All other issues sank in importance when compared with the vital need of keeping our financial system on the high and honorable plane imperatively demanded by our position as a great civilized power. As the champion of such a principle President McKinley received the support not only of his own party, but of hundreds of thousands of those to whom he had

been politically opposed. He triumphed, and he made good with scrupulous fidelity the promises upon which the campaign was won. We were at the time in a period of great industrial depression, and it was promised for and on behalf of McKinley that if he were elected our financial system should not only be preserved unharmed, but improved, and our economic system shaped in accordance with those theories which have always marked our periods of greatest prosperity. The promises were kept, and following their keeping came the prosperity which we now enjoy. All that was foretold concerning the well-being which would follow the election of McKinley has been justified by the event.

But, as so often happens in our history, the President was forced to face questions other than those at issue at the time of his election. Within a year the situation in Cuba had become literally intolerable. President McKinley had fought too well in his youth, he knew too well at first hand what war really was, lightly to enter into a struggle. He sought by every honorable means to preserve peace, to avert war. He made every effort consistent with the national honor to bring about an amicable settlement of the Cuban difficulty. Then, when it became evident that these efforts were useless, that peace could not be honorably entertained, he devoted his strength to making the war as short and as decisive as possible. It is needless to tell the result in detail. Suffice it to say that rarely indeed in history has a contest so far-reaching in the importance of its outcome been achieved with such ease. There followed a harder task. As a result of the war we came into possession of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines. In each island the conditons were such that we had to face problems entirely new to our national experience, and, moreover, in each island or group of islands the problems differed radically from those presented in the others. In Porto Rico the task was simple. The island

could not be independent. It became in all essentials a part of the Union. It has been given all the benefits of our economic and financial system. Its inhabitants have been given the highest individual liberty, while yet their government has been kept under the supervision of officials so well chosen that the island can be appealed to as affording a model for all such experiments in the future; and this result was mainly owing to the admirable choice of instruments by President McKinley when he selected the governing officials.

In Cuba, where we were pledged to give the island independence, the pledge was kept, not merely in letter, but in spirit. It would have been a betrayal of our duty to have given Cuba independence out of hand. President McKinley, with his usual singular sagacity in the choice of agents, selected in General Leonard Wood the man of all others best fit to bring the island through its uncertain period of preparation for independence, and the result of his wisdom was shown when last May the island became in name and in fact a free republic, for it started with a better equipment and under more favorable conditions than had ever previously been the case with any Spanish-American commonwealth.

Finally, in the Philippines, the problem was one of great complexity. There was an insurrectionary party claiming to represent the people of the islands, and putting forth their claim with a certain speciousness which deceived no small number of excellent men here at home, and which afforded to yet others a chance to arouse a factious party spirit against the President. Of course, looking back, it is now easy to see that it would have been both absurd and wicked to abandon the Philippine Archipelago and let the scores of different tribes—Christian, Mahometan and pagan, in every stage of semi-civilization and Asiatic barbarism—turn the islands into a welter of bloody savagery, with the absolute certainty that some strong power would have to step in and take posses-

sion. But though now it is easy enough to see that our duty was to stay in the islands, to put down the insurrection by force of arms, and then to establish freedom, giving civil government, it needed genuine statesmanship to see this and to act accordingly at the time of the first revolt.

A weaker and less far-sighted man than President McKinley would have shrunk from a task very difficult in itself and certain to furnish occasion for attack and misrepresentation no less than for honest understanding. But President McKinley never flinched. He refused to consider the thought of abandoning our duty in our new possessions. While sedulously endeavoring to act with the utmost humanity toward the insurrectionists, he never faltered in the determination to put them down by force of arms, alike for the sake of our own interest and honor, and for the sake of the interest of the islanders, and particularly of the great numbers of friendly natives, including those most highly civilized, for whom abandonment by us would have meant ruin and death. Again his policy was most amply vindicated. Peace has come to the islands, together with a greater measure of individual liberty and self-government than they have ever before known. All the tasks set us as a result of the war with Spain have so far been well and honorably accomplished, and as a result this nation stands higher than ever before among the nations of mankind.

President McKinley's second campaign was fought mainly on the issue of approving what he had done in his first administration, and specifically what he had done as regards these problems springing out of the war with Spain. The result was that the popular verdict in his favor was more overwhelming than it had been before.

No other President in our history has seen high and honorable effort crowned with more conspicuous personal success. No other President entered upon his second term feeling such

right to a profound and peaceful satisfaction. Then by a stroke of horror, so strange in its fantastic iniquity as to stand unique in the black annals of crime, he was struck down. The brave, strong, gentle heart was stilled forever, and word was brought to the woman who wept that she was to walk thenceforth alone in the shadow. The hideous infamy of the deed shocked the nation to its depths, for the man thus struck at was in a peculiar sense the champion of the plain people, in a peculiar sense the representative and the exponent of those ideals which, if we live up to them, will make, as they have largely made, our country a blessed refuge for all who strive to do right and to live their lives simply and well as light is given them. The nation was stunned, and the people mourned with a sense of bitter bereavement because they had lost a man whose heart beat for them as the heart of Lincoln once had beaten. We did right to mourn; for the loss was ours, not his. He died in the golden fulness of his triumph. He died victorious in that highest of all kinds of strife—the strife for an ampler, juster and more generous national life. For him the laurel; but woe for those whom he left behind; woe to the nation that lost him; and woe to mankind that there should exist creatures so foul that one among them should strike at so noble a life.

We are gathered together to-night to recall his memory, to pay our tribute of respect to the great chief and leader who fell in the harness, who was stricken down while his eyes were bright with "the light that tells of triumph tasted." We can honor him best by the way we show in actual deed that we have taken to heart the lessons of his life. We must strive to achieve, each in the measure that he can, something of the qualities which made President McKinley a leader of men, a mighty power for good—his strength, his courage, his courtesy and dignity, his sense of justice, his ever-present kindliness and regard for the rights of others. He won great-

ness by meeting and solving the issues as they arose—not by shirking them—meeting them with wisdom, with the exercise of the most skilful and cautious judgment, but with fearless resolution when the time of crisis came. He met each crisis on its own merits; he never sought excuse for shirking a task in the fact that it was different from the one he had expected to face. The long public career, which opened when as a boy he carried a musket in the ranks and closed when as a man in the prime of his intellectual strength he stood among the world's chief statesmen, came to what it was because he treated each triumph as opening the road to fresh effort, not as an excuse for ceasing from effort. He undertook mighty tasks. Some of them he finished completely; others we must finish; and there remain yet others which he did not have to face, but which if we are worthy to be the inheritors of his principles, we will in our turn face with the same resolution, the same sanity, the same unfaltering belief in the greatness of this country, and unfaltering championship of the rights of each and all of our people, which marked his high and splendid career.

CHAPTERS

1. Family Relations, Boyhood and Education..... 1
2. A Soldier and His War Record..... 20
3. Lawyer and Officeholder..... 52
4. An Orator and His Speeches 78
5. A President and His Cabinet. 109
6. McKinley in the Home and as Commander-in-Chief 133
7. McKinley's Diplomacy, Morals and Religion.. 160

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

McKinley in the White House Library.... *Frontispiece*

PAGE

Birthplace 10
McKinley at the Age of Fifteen..... 18
McKinley in Fraternity Costume..... 36
McKinley in His Library, Canton, Ohio.... 66
A Characteristic Pose..... 84
McKinley Delivering His First Inaugural Speech 106
The War Cabinet..... 110
Home of McKinley, Canton, Ohio..... 134
Katie McKinley, the President's Daughter.. 138
McKinley on the Famous Front Porch..... 146
Temporary Tomb of McKinley, Canton, Ohio 172
Interior View First M. E. Church, Canton, Ohio 180
McKinley National Memorial, Canton, Ohio 184

WILLIAM McKINLEY.

A

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

WILLIAM McKINLEY

A Biographical Study

CHAPTER I

FAMILY RELATIONS, BOYHOOD AND EDUCATION

IN an address delivered before the Phillips Exeter Academy, in 1893, Phillips Brooks said: "Since the noblest life on earth is always human life, the literature which deals with human life must always be the noblest literature. And since the individual human life must always have a distinctness and interest which cannot belong to any of the groups of human lives, biography must always have a charm which no other kind of history can rival. I believe fully that the intrinsic life of any human being is so interesting that if it can be simply and sympathetically put in words, it will be legitimately interesting to other men."

The scope and aim of this biography is a

portrayal of William McKinley, not so much in an historical sense as in that of his personality. I will not try to be conventional. I aim to sketch the man as he really was; what he was among his friends; what he was in the hours of work as well as in the hours of leisure; what he said himself and what his close associates said of him. In short, I aim to speak the truth, while endeavoring to bring in important events and throw sidelights on his character that may be interesting, without giving a complete and connected biography of the man.

No one is more cognizant than the author of the fact that the time has not come to judge impartially and accurately the acts of William McKinley as a statesman. The main details of his career have been rehearsed so often that they are familiarly known to the reading public, but as to the meaning and significance of his life we do not know where history will place him. We are too near his time to rightly determine his full stature. But it is believed that with the passing seasons, when the secret workings of his life have been revealed, that his memory will shine with brighter lustre and his fame will be more radiant than during the years he dwelt among us. This biography then is not only a series of sketches, but an appreciation of the character of William McKinley. What we say, then, of his character and

his kindness of heart we say without fear of challenge.

Few men have been so universally beloved as was William McKinley. Senator George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts, a man who differed with McKinley as to his Philippine policy, said in his autobiography that "No man has lived in this country since Daniel Webster died, save McKinley alone, who had so large a number of devoted friends and admirers in all parts of the country."

McKinley was brilliant as a statesman and uniformly wise as a ruler. But it can be said with deliberate judgment that the most striking feature of his whole life was his warm, genial and generous nature. The last word can never be said, wrote a well-known writer, of such a man. To know William McKinley was to love him. His influence in both public and private life was of the loftiest and most benignant sort.

Every nation and clime produce characters which cannot perish from human memory. They inbreed within the soul of man, passions of love, honor and fidelity. They command our respect and admiration. We look upon them with a source of joy and pride, when we note what they were and what they accomplished for the good of humanity. They incarnated the spirit of the times in which they lived, and they were the embodiment of the

mental and moral forces of their period. Such was Washington at the beginning of American history. Such was Lincoln during the greatest crisis which ever befell our country. And such was McKinley during the third period of moment in the history of our nation.

McKinley's rise from obscurity to fame and power was no strange coincidence. The history of America since her inception has been full of such records. McKinley's was only one of the many. We have our Lincolns, our Garfields, our Greeleys.

The successes of McKinley's life, gained during hard years of unceasing toil, were steps of evolution. Like Abraham Lincoln, the higher he rose the more modest, the more serene, the more gentle and the more kindly in his dealings with his fellow-men he became. Thus, when he assumed the Presidency, he was equal to all the cares and responsibilities that the high office embodied. He had the advantage of good blood; for his ancestors were sturdy, industrious, high-minded, public-spirited and frugal. They did not belong to the royal class of Scotland, but were of a more substantial type, which eschewed that land and sought a larger freedom in the New World. Owing to some of the inaccurate data which has been published concerning President McKinley's genealogy, I will quote from a sketch, which may be relied

upon as being correct, prepared by the Rev. A. Stapleton.

"The ancestors of President McKinley belonged to that sturdy race of people called the Scotch-Irish, so called because in 1607 King James I. located a large number of Scots in the northern part of Ireland on lands from which the Irish had been evicted. These settlements were gradually augmented by immigration until eventually the Scotch-Irish element predominated in this region. They were stanch Presbyterians in faith, and in course of time developed traits and peculiarities so marked as to stamp them as almost a distinct race. In course of time this noble people were overtaken by many hardships, such as the successive failure of crops, besides very unsatisfactory civil and religious conditions. Their only source of relief was in emigration to America, in which they were encouraged by agents of the American colonies. After 1715 the emigration became very extensive, the chief port of arrival being New Castle, on the Delaware, below Philadelphia. The Scotch-Irish being citizens of the British realm, their arrival is not a matter of record, that of the Germans, Swiss, Dutch, etc., who are designated as foreigners in the colonial records, and were required to subscribe to an oath of allegiance upon arrival, besides a subsequent naturalization. Hence it follows that citizens of the

realm are more difficult to identify than foreigners by the historian. Our only recourse is in tax lists, land warrants, court records, etc.

"In the case of President McKinley we have an undisputed record to his great-grandfather, David McKinley. We know that he was a Revolutionary soldier, that he was born in York County, Pa., that he removed to Westmoreland County after the Revolution, and in 1814 to Ohio, where he died. In the cemetery of the Chatfield Lutheran Church, in Crawford County, Ohio, may be seen two modest granite markers with the following inscription:

"'David McKinley, Revolutionary soldier, born, 1755; died, 1840, and Hannah C. Rose, born, 1757; died, 1840.'

"David McKinley was the father of James, born September 19, 1783; married Mary Rose, of Mercer County, Pa., and removed thence to Chatfield, where he purchased a farm, on which he died. He was the father of William McKinley, Sr., born in 1807, and died in Canton, Ohio, in 1892. The latter was the father of President McKinley. Hannah C. Rose, buried by the side of David McKinley, was the great-grandmother of the President.

"For the history of the family prior to David, the soldier, we must rely on the courthouse records at Lancaster, and York, Pa. From various documents and entries we think

the evidence incontrovertible that David McKinley, the head of the clan McKinley in America, landed at New Castle, and located in (now) Chanceford Township, York County, Pa., in 1743. At that time he was well along in life. He was accompanied by his wife, Esther, and three sons, John, David, Stephen and a daughter, Mary. There are frequent references to these sons in the county archives. The immigrant was a weaver by trade, but, like all thrifty artisans of that day, he secured a good homestead. It is possible, but not probable, that he arrived in the province earlier than 1743, but in this year his name first appeared on the records in a warrant for 316 acres of land on a beautiful elevation, overlooking the Susquehanna River in the distance.

"That he was a man of enterprise is shown in the fact that in 1749 he circulated a petition for a public highway, which he also presented to Court. The following year he was made supervisor, and doubtless had the task imposed on himself to engineer his road to completion. His name occurs frequently in the most honorable way, showing him to have been a man of unusual probity and worth as a citizen.

"David McKinley, the immigrant, died intestate in 1757, leaving his wife and children as already named. His daughter was intermarried with Samuel Gordon. The settlement of the estate shows personal prosperity to the

value of £220, or $1,100, besides the plantation, which was divided. Later, however, the son John (who, with his mother, was the executor) purchased the entire estate.

"This leads us to the consideration of the second generation, viz., John McKinley, eldest son of the immigrant. Before entering upon details, we here throw out the precautionary statement that the names McKinley and McGinley are both contemporaneous and interchangeable in our early records, owing to the carelessness of scribes. They were, however, separate families in York County. The McGinleys proper came from James McGinley, who died in York County in 1755, leaving an only son, John. No relationship is known to have existed between the families, although remotely it might have been the case. The President's ancestors, so far as we have ascertained, always wrote their name as now.

"Resuming our narrative of the McKinleys; John, son of the immigrant, was born about 1728, and in his day was one of the foremost men of York County. He became a large land-owner, and frequently figures in important business transactions. When hostilities broke out with the Mother Country he stanchly supported the revolution, and was made Wagon Master for Chanceford Township by the Committee of Safety. He died on his estate February 18, 1779, being survived by his

widow, Margaret, an only son, David, great-grandfather of the President, and daughters, Esther, Jean, Elizabeth and Susan. The widow subsequently married Thomas McCulloch. She died in the winter of 1781.

"This leads us down to David McKinley, grandson of the emigrant and great-grandfather of the President. He was born on the old homestead in Chancefield Township, May 16, 1755. In 1776 he enlisted in Captain Reed's Company of Ferrymen in the War of the Revolution. This was the Seventh Company of the Eighth Battalion of York County Militia. The Militia-men, it should be remembered, were called out in emergencies, and were drafted in sections for active service, making what were then called tours of service. In this way nearly all the Militia of Pennsylvania saw many tours of service, much hard fighting and the most perilous kind of military life."

This David McKinley, who was a Revolutionary soldier, was not a distinguished officer, but came from that grand class of privates. On the President's grandmother's side he came from equally good stock. Mary Rose, who married James McKinley, the second, came from Holland, where her ancestors had fled from religious persecution in England. Andrew Rose was the first to see these shores. He came over with William Penn, and became one of the representatives of the thirteen Colo-

nies prior to the Revolutionary War. His son, Andrew, was the father of Mary Rose, the mother of William McKinley, the father of the President.

In the year 1829, at New Lisbon, Ohio, William McKinley, Sr., married Nancy Campbell Allison, whose descendants came from England and settled in Virginia. Mrs. William McKinley, Sr.'s, branch, however, emigrated to Pennsylvania. Her grandfather not only fought in the American Revolution, but made bullets and cannon. William McKinley, Sr., took his wife to the small town of Fairfield, Ohio, in order that he might be near his iron foundry, located in New Wilmington. For nearly twenty years he was engaged in this business. From Fairfield they moved to Niles, Trumbull County, another small town. In this town, in a plain, wooden dwelling, close to the road, adjourning a field, as it has been described, *the* WILLIAM MCKINLEY was born on January 29, 1843. His birthplace was standing until the year 1895, although previous to that period the ground floor had been converted into a store. In 1896, when McKinley was running for the Presidency, the house was divided and part of it removed. Some of the wood of the building at this time was made into canes and used in the campaign for parade purposes.

William was the seventh child, and after him

Birthplace of William McKinley, Niles, Ohio.

came a boy and a girl. His parents were not what would be called well-to-do people, but they were by no means as poor as Lincoln's family. In his youth the boy William was a manly little fellow. He possessed pluck, determination and will power, and, it is said, used them right. Although inclined to be studious and thoughtful, he was a real boy, nevertheless, enjoyed skating, fishing and sports of all kinds. As to his skating, an old chum has said: "He couldn't do much at fancy figures, but he could beat lots of the boys when it come to a straight-out race. He'd swing along like a steam engine, often with a stick in both hands and tippet flying from around his neck and under his arms."

William was very popular with the rest of the boys; they liked him and sought his companionship.

A story is told of his fishing that shows his patience. It is said that he would sit for hours waiting for a bite. One day he came home after dark, and his mother inquired where he had been. "I was fishing, mother," he replied.

"Fishing?" said his mother. "I don't see any fish."

"I didn't catch any to-day. But I located a big fellow, and I'll get him to-morrow."

McKinley was blessed with a good, Christian mother. She was a hard worker, but she found time to help her children develop noble

characteristics and teach them to be thoughtful for others. In his early days we find him leading the same kind of a life as the boys of his neighborhood. He said of himself on one occasion that "he did anything a boy would do around the house; that money was very scarce, and one had to work hard for what little money one had."

A gentleman well acquainted with the family said, in speaking of McKinley's boyhood days: "I can still see him in my mind's eye, the bright little chap in swaddling clothes that I used to give hobby-horse rides on my knee. Little Willie was an exceptionally bright child, and I always predicted great things for him, but little did I then dream that he would become the Chief Magistrate of the greatest government on earth. I never heard him say an unkind word to his parents. He was a good boy to his mother."

And this statement is borne out by the words of his own mother when her son became President. "William was always a good boy. I could always depend upon him. He never gave me a cross word, and I don't believe he ever told me a lie. I'm glad that he is President, for his sake, even though I did used to think he'd make a fine minister."

On the day of his inauguration no one was happier than the little mother who had come on from Canton to see her son made President

of the United States. As McKinley took the oath of office the tears that fell from her eyes were tears of pride and joy.

She remained a short time at the White House, and then went back to her modest little home in Ohio. Every day she received a letter from "my William," as she called him, and her only regret was that her husband had not lived to see their son made President.

During the days of stress and worry and responsibility these letters never failed to go from the White House to the little woman in Canton, but one day came when the President was summoned to the bedside of his dying mother. There he sat, hour after hour, until the end came, on December 12th, 1897. He and his brother Abner made the arrangements for the funeral, and then, after all was over, he returned to Washington, a sad and heavy-hearted man. When he was running for the Presidency he once granted an interview to a youth, who asked: "Can a boy neglect his mother and get along and be great, Mr. McKinley?" "Harry," said the President-elect, "a boy should always be good to his mother, and do everything in the world he can and love her. He must comfort her, be kind and gentle to her, and not only do all he can to make her happy, but he should make opportunities to try and do everything he can do. A boy cannot expect to succeed if he isn't good to his

mother. A boy should do all the work for her, because when the time comes that she has got to leave for a greater world than this, and if he has done what is right towards her, all the time, then when the time comes for her to go he will never regret the good he has done towards her."

William McKinley learned to read at an early age. He was taught by his older sisters and brothers before he went to school. At the age of six he was sent to the village school at Niles. Here he was instructed in the first rudiments of education. The father wishing to provide the best training for his children, decided that Niles was too small a place; that it was deficient in many ways. He therefore moved his family to Poland when William was nine years old. This town was an agricultural and mining village, situated about eight miles south from the city of Youngstown. It is said that Poland never grew much, for it was too near Youngstown, but it was a patriotic little village, for "there were always more volunteers than Poland's quota justified."

When McKinley's time was not occupied in study or at work doing the chores around the house, he would be listening to the men of the neighborhood talk politics and discuss State rights, and very often would he go over to Youngstown to hear some fine speaker who was scheduled to address a political meeting.

After hearing some of these big politicians, as they were called, William and the other schoolboys thought they would like to learn how to speak, so McKinley said, "I'll tell you what we can do." "What?" replied the boys. "We can organize a debating society." The subject was suggested to others, and every one seemed to fall in with the idea. The society was formed. It was known as the "Everett Society," in honor of Edward Everett.

William McKinley became its first president, and the subjects that were taken up were most interesting. The members soon saved money enough to buy a carpet for the floor of the hall, and at the first meeting after the carpet had been placed down a rainstorm came up. The members came, however, but did not dare to venture inside the room with their muddy feet. One boy suggested that they all take off their shoes. This was done at once, and the president took the chair and the debate proceeded.

Even as a child McKinley had a good deal of sentiment. A lady in Ohio is in possession of a souvenir given her by Mr. McKinley, of which she is very fond. It is a stanza written when he was only twelve years old. She was a schoolgirl at the time:

"FRIEND LUCY:

"A heart of heavenly purity
Is laid within thy breast,
And ever for the weary soul
It breathes some time of rest.

"Nov. 12th, 1855, Poland, Ohio.
"WM. MCKINLEY."

John Hay, in his address on McKinley before the two houses of Congress, said:

"He grew up in the company of boys like himself, wholesome, honest, self-respecting. They looked down on nobody; they never felt it possible they could be looked down upon. Their houses were the houses of probity, piety, patriotism. They learned in the admirable school readers of fifty years ago the lessons of heroic and splendid life which have come down from the past. They read in their weekly newspapers the story of the world's progress, in which they were eager to take part, and of the sins and wrongs of civilization with which they burned to do battle. It was a serious and thoughtful time. The boys of that day felt dimly, but deeply, that days of sharp struggle and high achievement were before them. They looked at life with the wondering yet resolute eyes of a young esquire in his vigil of arms. They felt a time was coming when to them should be addressed the stern admonition of

the apostle: "Quit you like men; be strong."

The lessons of honesty, of faithfulness and of gentleness which William McKinley learned from his Christian mother were abiding elements of character during his entire life. In later years President McKinley often said that his mother was an inspiration to him. Mr. McKinley, Sr., had been a great reader, and would often discuss the questions of the day with his children, and doubtless Wiliam, Jr., inherited his love of reading.

When the McKinley family moved to Poland, William entered the Academy. From the Academy he was sent to Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pa. He had done so well at school that when he was examined for admission he was placed in the junior class. This cut off one year of the regular course, and it helped young McKinley greatly, for he knew the sacrifices of his parents, so that he might secure a good education. He therefore pursued his work in such zealous fashion that before he had been at college a year his health broke down, and he was compelled to discontinue his studies. It is said that he expected to return to school, but just at that time wages fell, throwing many out of employment. The McKinleys suffered with the rest, although the father still retained his position as iron manufacturer. Young McKinley, seeing all hopes

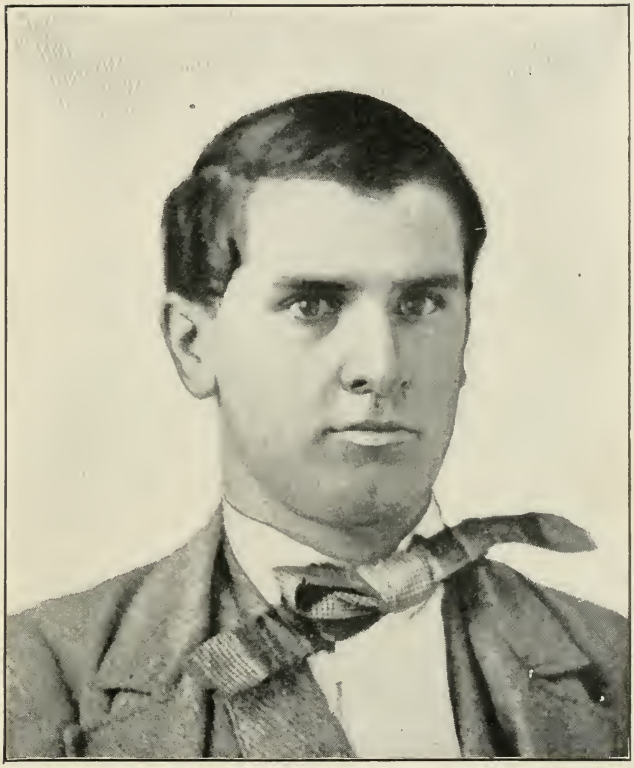
of returning to college gone, then sought employment.

He applied for the position of teacher at the Kerr district school and secured the place. The school was about two and a half miles from his home, and McKinley used to walk over in the morning and back again in the afternoon. Some of the students were quite as old as the young instructor, but he got along admirably. The salary was not large, only $25 a month, but "it was better than nothing." It was the custom for the teacher to "board round" with the directors of the school, but he lived at home principally.

After the school term closed young McKinley became assistant postmaster in the Poland post office, and here is where we find him when Fort Sumter was fired on. The news of Fort Sumter's surrender stirred McKinley, for "the fighting blood of many generations flowed in his veins."

To speak again of his schooling, it may be said that he was diligent and faithful, though perhaps not a brilliant scholar. He loved to gain a general knowledge. In later years he took private lessons in Greek and Hebrew. To him education meant the secret of success. Speaking once of his student days, he said:

"Exact knowledge is the requirement of the hour. You will be crippled without it. Luck will not last. It may help you once, but you



WILLIAM McKINLEY AT THE AGE OF FIFTEEN

Reproduced by courtesy of Collier's Weekly.

cannot count on it. Labor is the only key to opportunity."

His life was full of hours of study and thought. To him a life well spent meant ceaseless activity, a higher ideal for self and a striving to uplift our fellow-men. By this splendid discipline McKinley created a mind that was alert, clear, sagacious and comprehensive.

His years of training were everything in a life that was destined to play so important a part in the world's work. The superstructure that he built in those early days helped in a marked degree toward the life of the later full-grown man of stainless honor, of whole-hearted friendliness and kindliness, "in its simplicity sublime."

CHAPTER II

A SOLDIER AND HIS WAR RECORD

THE most inspiring feature of the world's civilization is character. It is the composite element of the best traditions of the human race. But in a literal sense, character means more than goodness, purity and honesty; it means bravery and courage as well.

The stern admonition of the apostle when he said, "Quit you like men; be strong," meant all these; strong in body, strong in uprightness, strong in faith and strong when duty calls.

It is very difficult for us to-day to realize the vital dissensions which prevailed about the days of '61, when the guns of Fort Moultrie thundered forth their attack upon Fort Sumter. In an instant, as it were, a million men stood eager to sacrifice themselves, their homes and kindred for duty's sake; ready to die, if need be, for the saving of their country. Love of country was deeply written in the hearts of the Boys in Blue and the Boys in Grey. This manifestation of heroism and devotion has never been equalled in the world's history, for brother was arrayed against brother.

As Lincoln said, "the prayers of *both* could not be answered." But to-day all prejudices have mellowed and softened into real bonds of kinship. A reunited country is the fruit that was born from the mighty conflict. We glory in the fact that human slavery was swept forever from American soil, and that a mighty nation was again restored to itself, "save for the thousands who were left lying dead on the field of honor!"

William McKinley was the kind of youth for whom war had little attraction. But when the call came he was not found wanting. The love of liberty burned in his heart. It has been said that it was to him a Crusade for liberty, and, like a knight of the Holy Cross, he enlisted in the ranks.

William McKinley's perhaps greatest desire when he became President was, like Lincoln's, to know no North, no South, no East, no West. And with candor, it may be said, that no President since Lincoln did so much to reunite the South again into the friendly counsels of the nation.

At Atlanta, Ga., he said: "The time has now come in the evolution of sentiment and feeling under the Providence of God when in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers.

"The cordial feeling now happily existing

between the North and the South prompts this gracious act, and if it needs further justification, it is found in the gallant loyalty to the Union and the Flag, so conspicuously shown in the year just past by the sons and grandsons of these heroic dead."

He concluded that remarkable speech with these eloquent words:

"Reunited! One Country again and one Country forever! Proclaim it from the press and pulpit, teach it in the schools, write it across the skies. The world sees and feels it, it cheers every heart in North and South, and brightens the life of every American home. Let nothing ever stain it again. At peace with all the world and with each other. What can stand in the pathway of our peace and prosperity?"

One day, in the early part of June, 1861, a meeting was called at the old Sparrow Tavern in the town of Poland, to consider the great question of the hour.

There was speechmaking and beating of drums, and a general appeal for volunteers to enlist to protect the flag. McKinley with the rest of the young men of Poland walked over to the Tavern. The hall was decorated with red, white and blue. There was a recruiting agent, and he was speaking to the gathering and urging enlistment in the service.

"Our country's flag has been fired upon," he

said, as he pointed to the starry banner above his head. "It has been trailed in the dust by those who should have cherished and loved it. And for what? That this free government may keep a race in the bondage of Slavery! Who will be the first to defend the glorious Stars and Stripes?" "I expect to go," McKinley said, "but wish first to consult my mother," which he did. After much persuasion, the mother consented. Back to the old Tavern he went, and proudly signed his name on the list of volunteers.

On June 7th, 1861, the volunteers gathered on the village green, ready to start for Youngstown, thence to Columbus, the State capital. The whole town came out to bid them goodby. It was a holiday in Poland, and some that marched away that day never returned.

McKinley's mother was there, and with a "God bless you, my boy!" she stood in tears as the last of the volunteers faded from sight. Upon reaching Columbus the recruits marched to Camp Chase, a beautiful spot near the Capital. Here it was that each recruit was examined physically by General John C. Fremont, known as the "Pathfinder of the West."

When young McKinley's turn came he was a bit anxious as to the result. The General looked him over, thumped on his chest, and remarked, "You'll do." Naturally, the young man was very much pleased as to the outcome,

for it is said he returned to his fellows full of smiles, at which they remarked: "I guess you're going, Will. He didn't turn you down, did he?" "No," said McKinley, "he said I'd do. And I'm going to do the very best I can."

In those days some thought the war would be short, while others anticipated a long struggle. But no one expected it to last four years. McKinley fully realized the importance of the conflict, and expected that time and hard fighting alone would cement the opposing forces.

The Poland recruits became Company E of the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry. It was mustered into service for a period of three years on June 11, 1861. And in this regiment McKinley belonged to that grand classification known as privates.

McKinley in later life seldom spoke of his war record, but one day he was talking with a friend in the Governor's office at Columbus, and the subject of the war came up. The friend spoke of the Governor's enlistment and service in that conflict. Mr. McKinley leaned back in his chair, and with the pleasant memories of those days long passed said:

"I always look back with pleasure upon those fourteen months during which I served in the ranks. They taught me a great deal. I was but a schoolboy when I went into the army, and that first year was a formative period in my life, during which I learned much of men

and facts. I have always been glad that I entered the service as a private, and served those months in that capacity."

The Twenty-third Ohio was one of the most conspicuous and celebrated in that it had among its ranks and its officers men who during their lifetime became famous in different lines.

The first Colonel of the regiment was William S. Rosecrans, a graduate of the Military Academy, and one that rose to be a well-known general of the Union army. He was after the war an officer of high rank in the Regular Army. The first Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment was Stanley Matthews, who, after he retired from service, became United States Senator from Ohio, and still later was appointed an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Its first Major was Rutherford B. Hayes, who won rapid promotion for his gallantry and steadfastness. He became a general, and in 1876 was chosen President of the United States. The regiment also produced others that rose to eminence and distinction.

The statistics of the regiment show that from the time of its formation until it was mustered out of service, in 1865, there were 2,230 men enrolled as members. And it goes on to state that 5 officers and 154 men were killed or died from wounds, and in all there were 567 who

were killed or wounded. Thirty-nine of that number died in Confederate prisons and from disease, resulting from inclement weather and hardships.

Like Hayes and Garfield, his noted predecessors in army life, McKinley was always observant, persistent and ardently desirous of doing the right thing and doing it well. He was ever on hand and ready to perform any service that came within his reach. President Hayes on one occasion, when speaking of McKinley's connection with the Twenty-third Ohio, said:

"At once it was found that he had unusual character for the mere business of war. There is a quartermaster's department in every regiment, in every brigade, in every division, in every army. Young as he was, he soon found that in business, in executive ability, young McKinley was a man of rare capacity, of unusual and unsurpassed sagacity; especially for a boy of his age. When battles were fought or service was to be performed in warlike things, he always took his place. The night was never too dark; the weather was never too cold; there was no sleet or storm or hail or snow or rain that was in the way of his prompt and efficient performance of every duty. When I became commander of the regiment he soon came to be on my staff, where he remained for one or two years, so that I did literally and in fact know him like a book and love him like a brother."

During the time that young McKinley was on General Hayes's staff they learned to love each other like brothers. And it is stated that the friendship continued until death called ex-President Hayes.

Murat Halstead, the famous journalist and author, tells us that at the funeral of the ex-President, in 1892, Governor McKinley and his staff were present, and that McKinley cried like a child when he looked for the last time on the face of his dead comrade and personal friend.

During the war days young McKinley stood firm as a rock, in that he did not yield to the terrible temptations that so often beset a man in the rough and rugged life of the army. He always remained true to his early moral instruction and religious training received around the home hearthstone.

Dr. Nardyz, a retired army surgeon, who was McKinley's intimate friend for three years, said some years ago:

"The young Major seemed to be very religious. This fact impressed me very much, as well as the deference shown him by the men on this account. In the three years we were together I never saw Major McKinley drink a drop of liquor, nor heard him use a profane word. That is wonderful to record of a man thrown into the rough life of the army. It

was not at Antietam that President McKinley distinguished himself, for his regiment had no chance to do anything there. It was at Gettysburg. His name is always associated in my mind with Gettysburg and a magnificent charge on a stone wall in a hollow before Cemetery Hill. There is where the young, smooth Major showed the true qualities of a soldier, and the men who were alive after that charge felt a new regard and increased respect for the man who did not swear or drink, but was as cool and collected as the oldest veteran."

It was said after the war that William McKinley learned his tactics and duties as a soldier very readily. From Camp Chase the regiment was ordered to Clarksburg, W. Va., and toward the close of the month it left Clarksburg and went to Weston. There, it is said, it rained constantly, making it necessary for the soldiers to often sleep on wet blankets.

The guns that were used in those days were the old-fashioned "smooth-bores." The one that Private McKinley carried during the fourteen months he served in the ranks is still in existence, and is owned by a friend of McKinley's in Canton, who, it is needless to say, greatly treasures it. When McKinley was Governor of Ohio he delivered an address in memory of Rutheford B. Hayes. During the speech he spoke a little about his army life and

of his first meeting Major Hayes at Camp Chase. Concerning the army, he said:

"The State could furnish only the most inferior guns, and these we positively and proudly refused to accept. We would accept nothing but the best. The officers spent most of the day in trying to persaude us to receive the guns for a few weeks, if only for the purpose of drill. None of us knew how to use any kind of a musket at that time, but we thought we knew our rights, and were all conscious of our importance. They assured us that more modern guns would soon be supplied. Major Hayes did the talking to our company, and I shall never forget the impression of his speech. He said that many of the most decisive battles in history had been won with the rudest weapons. At Lexington, Bunker Hill and many other engagements of the Revolution our forefathers had triumphed over the well-equipped English army, with the very poorest firearms, and that even pikes and scythes had done good work in that glorious conflict. Should we be less patriotic than our brave ancestors? Should we hesitate at the very start of another struggle for liberty and union, for the best and freest government on the face of the earth, because we were not pleased with the pattern of our muskets, or with the calibre of our rifles? I cannot at this late day recall his words, but I shall never forget his warmth of patriotic

feeling and the sound sense with which he appealed to us. That was our first and last mutiny. We accepted the old-fashioned guns, took cheerfully what was offered, and Hayes held us captive from that hour."

Previous to September 1st the regiment had been divided, but at this date they came together at Bulltown, joined the forces under command of General Rosecrans and moved to Carnifex Ferry on September 10th. At this point a small battle ensued, resulting in victory for the Union side. The Confederates were under command of General Floyd. After being driven back they retreated across the Gualey River.

After this fight the regiment having little to do, and the winter weather coming on, went into winter quarters. Some of the hardest experiences and most trying times of the war were encountered at this time. The historian of "Ohio in the War" gives us an account of this period. He says:

"From this point the regiment operated against the numerous guerillas infesting the country in that quarter, performing many days and nights of excessively hard duty, marching and counter-marching over the rugged spurs of the Rich Mountain range, and drenched by the almost continual rains of that season. Thus we find the boys who had left their peaceful occupations and happy homes but a few months

previously suddenly plunged into an actual service that put to a severe test both their fighting qualities and powers of endurance."

The hard winter did not break down McKinley's health, but seemed to build him up and make him more rugged in stature. He was very fortunate, only suffering one serious illness and being absent once on furlough in his entire service.

Throughout the war no one showed a better record than he did. During the winter he ministered to the sick in the hospital, and often, it is said, went without his own blanket so he might loan it to another comrade less fortunate than himself.

In April Private McKinley won his first promotion, to that of Commanding Sergeant. The way in which he had borne his part as a private attracted the attention of his superiors. They recognized in him a person possessing more than the average of courage, steadfastness, executive ability and capacity for hard work. He entered upon his new duties on April 15th, 1862. Two days later the regiment was ordered to leave winter quarters and pursue the enemy, which they did, encountering the Confederate troops at Clark's Hollow.

After a slight skirmish, which was of little importance, the Twenty-third proceeded to Princeton, in West Virginia. McKinley's regiment expected a big battle at Princeton,

but fearing that they were not strong enough to hold the place, set fire to it and evacuated it. The Union troops entered the town, put out the fire, and thereby saved the inhabitants. After this Colonel Hayes, who had received a promotion, decided to leave the town and go to Flat Top Mountain, which he did, and he remained there until July 13th, when he marched the regiment to Camp Piatt, where they took transport to Parkersburg, and thence to Washington, the Capitol City. This was McKinley's first trip to the Capital, and, it is said that he enjoyed viewing the public buildings and the White House. He little thought in those days that later in life he would spend so much of his time as a public servant in that city.

After the regiment left Washington they were ordered to Frederick, Md., where it was expected a great battle would be fought, but upon the entrance of the Union army the Confederates departed and took up a strong position at South Mountain. McKinley himself briefly described this battle in an oration before the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, in 1893. He was Governor at the time. He said:

"It was a lovely September day, an ideal Sunday morning. McClellan's army, with Burnside's corps in front, was passing up the mountain by the national road. General Cox's Ohio division led Burnside's corps and the

Twenty-third Ohio was in the lead of that division. Hayes was ordered to take one of the mountain paths, and move to the right of the rebels. At 9 o'clock the rebel picket was driven back, and on our pushing forward the rebels advanced upon us in strong force. Our regiment was quickly formed in the woods, and charged over rocks and broken ground, through deep underbrush, under the heavy fire of the enemy at short range, and after one of the hottest fights of the war we drove them out of the woods into an open field near the hill top. Another charge was ordered by Hayes. No sooner had he given the word of command than a ball from the enemy's ranks shattered his arm above the elbow, crushing the bone to fragments. He called to a soldier to tie his handkerchief about the wound, but, turning faint, he fell, his men passing over and beyond him into the fight, where he had ordered them. When he regained consciousness Hayes found himself under a heavy fire, with the bullets pelting the ground all about him. He feared that his men were retreating, but he was soon reassured, when, on calling out, he was carried safely into friendly cover."

The battle of Antietam followed shortly after the fight at South Mountain. Here it was that young McKinley distinguished himself again for bravery.

The valor of McKinley during the battle of

Antietam has been described by General J. L. Botsford, of Youngstown, Ohio, who was the Quartermaster of the Twenty-third Ohio. He was present, and he says:

"At the battle of Antietam McKinley was the Commissary Sergeant of the Twenty-third Regiment O. V. I., and his duty was, of course, with the commissary supplies, which were at least two miles from the battle-field proper. As you, no doubt, are aware, on all battles, whether large or small, there are numerous stragglers, who easily find their way back to where the commissary supplies are. This was the case at Antietam, and McKinley conceived and put into execution the idea of using some of these stragglers to make coffee and carry it to the boys in front. It was nearly dark when we heard tremendous cheering from the left of our regiment. As we had been having heavy fighting right up to this time, our division commander, General Scammon, sent to me to find out the cause, which I very soon found to be cheers for McKinley and his hot coffee. You can readily imagine the rousing welcome he received from both officers and men.

When you consider the fact of his leaving his post of security and driving into the middle of a bloody battle with a team of mules, it needs no words of mine to show the character and determiniation of McKinley, a boy at this time of about 20 years of age. McKinley loaded up

two wagons with supplies, but the mules of one wagon were disabled. He was ordered back time and again, but he pushed on. As he gave a can of hot coffee and "hard tack" to one soldier, who had been shot, the comrade muttered, "God bless the lad!" And McKinley afterward said that that alone had repaid him for the tireless energy and danger which he passed through.

The result of this act of thoughtfulness on the part of McKinley had a tremendous effect on the lines. It made them like a new regiment, and when, later, the final order came to charge they did it with renewed vigor and energy.

At the close of the battle, perhaps the bloodiest of the war, the Union men had the advantage of many points, although the victory, as a whole, is placed in the "indecisive class." One point was that Lee retreated to the left bank of the Potomac, thereby preventing an attack upon the capital city.

Upon hearing of Sergeant McKinley's devotion to duty and his bravery during the battle of Antietam Colonel Hayes was much impressed, and when in Ohio called on Governor Todd and told him of the incident. The Governor is reported as saying:

"Such a fellow deserves promotion," and the latter at once wrote to headquarters and re-

quested that Sergeant McKinley be promoted to Second Lieutenant.

Directly after the battle of Antietam McKinley's regiment, a part of the Kanawha division, was ordered back to West Virginia, and there went into winter quarters alongside the falls of the great Kanawha. Here Hayes joined his regiment after a short absence. He was well received by his command, for they all loved him. The camp that winter was named "Camp Lucy Hayes," in honor of the Colonel's wife.

The regiment remained in winter quarters from October, 1862, to July, 1863. During this time McKinley received his third promotion, to that of First Lieutenant, and was assigned to his old company, in which he had enlisted as a private at the outbreak of the war.

The Lieutenant passed a good portion of his time drilling his company, but the remainder was spent in reading and studying. Even while in the army, every chance he got would be taken up in studying the lives of great men and the history of his country.

In July the regiment moved upon John Morgan, the raider. Morgan had started with about 2,500 men to raid the country through Kentucky and Indiana; most of his men were mounted, and when their poor horses became exhausted they would take others from the natives. Morgan soon reached the Ohio River,

McKINLEY IN FRATERNITY COSTUME.

Courtesy of Roller Pub. Co., Canton, Ohio.

for his speed was about sixty miles a day. Within about seventy miles from Louisville, he crossed the river into Indiana, and so rapid was his march that on July 14th, he came within twenty-eight miles of Cincinnati. Colonel Hayes then started to stop his raid. Morgan did not wish to fight and retreated, but Hayes pursued him, and within the next few days caught him and captured all his men. The raider was taken to the Ohio penitentiary and the Twenty-third Ohio went into winter quarters at the same camp again.

During the ensuing winter Lieutenant McKinley was placed on Hayes's staff.

General Hastings, in speaking of McKinley's war services, said:

"McKinley was always keen, quick and alert, and so was naturally fitted for staff service, a fact his superiors soon realized and took advantage of, so that during the greater part of the war he served on the staff of the general officers, one of the most dangerous positions in the army, one which required the utmost readiness of resource and bravery of the highest order."

This winter was not so severe as the previous one, but still there was considerable suffering in the camp. The Twenty-third left camp on April 29th, and marched to a position a few miles above Brownstown, and there joined the division commanded by General George

Crook, who was preparing to cut the principal lines of communication between the Southwest and the city of Richmond. McKinley on one occasion spoke of this expedition in the following words:

"It was a rough and trying march over mountains and through deep ravines and dense woods, with snows and rains that would have checked the advance of any but the most determined. Daily we were brought in contact with the enemy. We penetrated a country where guerillas were abundant, and where it was not an unusual thing for our men to be shot from the underbrush—murdered in cold blood.

"At Cloyd Mountain the regiment encountered the enemy, and there was a fierce and desperate engagement. The advance across the meadow, in full sight of the enemy and in range of their guns, through the creek and up over the works on the ridge, was magnificently executed, and the hand-to-hand combat in the fort was as desperate as any witnessed during the war. Still another charge was made, and the rebels again driven back. On we hurried to Dublin Depot, on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, burning the bridges there, tearing up the track and rendering the railroad useless for the transportation of the soldiers or supplies. Then the new river bridge was destroyed, and then with frequent

encounters we went on to Staunton, Va. We entered Lexington, the seat of the Confederate Military Institute, after a sharp engagement, Hayes's brigade in the lead and sustaining all the casualties which occurred. Then on to Lynchburg, where, overcome by superior numbers, constantly augmented by fast arriving reinforcements from Richmond, the whole division was compelled to retreat. All commissary supplies were consumed, and, almost without food, we marched and fought our way back, closely pursued by the enemy.

"'After we reached our supply train,' to quote General Hayes, 'we stopped and ate, marched and ate, camped about dark, and ate all night. We had marched almost continuously for about two months, fighting often with little food and sleep, crossing three ranges of the Alleghanies four times, then ranges of the Blue Ridge twice, and marching several times all day and all night without sleeping.'"

By those who participated in that march, which occupied a good part of a week, many tales are told. It was one of hardship and suffering. One veteran had said, in speaking of it: "I was used up by it. It was so cold at times I couldn't tell whether I had my nose or feet left, or not. When we laid down to sleep our blankets would often freeze fast during the night, so that we'd have to take an axe and chop them loose in the morning."

"I remember McKinley well on that march. He had just been made a First Lieutenant, and I imagine he had his eye on a captaincy—anyway, he did his full share toward hustling us along and helping stragglers. There was one poor chap who got dead beat out, and in climbing the mountainside he slipped and rolled into a hollow at least two hundred feet out of the way. There was no ambulance corps around, and no doctor within call, and the Sergeant detailed to look after stragglers, was about as fagged out as the man who took the tumble. I was looking at the poor chap when McKinley rushes up to me, and cries: 'Come on; let's help him up!' And away he goes, and me after him. I can tell you, it was a tough climb down into the hole, and a worse climb back. But we got him on his feet, and then two or three others joined hands with us, and in that way we got him up to the path. We made some hot coffee for him and gave him some liquor, and helped him along, and by and by he was all right again. But he didn't forget what we did for him, and since then he's voted for McKinley six or seven times."

This great march, as described above, occurred in June, 1864. Hayes with his brigade stayed at Charleston until July 18, when they were ordered to attack the Confederates under Early, some ten miles beyond Harper's Ferry.

Under the large body of men under Early the regiment found themselves completely surrounded. They bored their way out, however, and after hard fighting were able to join the main body of the troops under command of General Crook, near Winchester. During the next three or four months McKinley's regiment went through hard and desperate fighting. Finally the Southern troops were driven out of the valley of the Shenandoah. At this time General Grant, in command of the Union forces, received information that General Lee had ordered Early to proceed to Richmond. So, upon the reception of this news, Grant withdrew two corps from the valley to assist in the work before him at the capital of the Confederacy. This movement left Crook with only eight corps, or, in round numbers, about 6,000 men. Early, however, had deferred his visit to Richmond, and had taken his place at Strasburg. He there learned that Grant had taken two of Crook's corps, and he at once determined to return and overwhelm Crook, who, not being informed of the real condition of affairs, was peaceful at Winchester.

Early arrived on Sunday morning, July 24th. Crook, not believing that Early had come back with his entire force, sent only two small brigades under command of Hayes and Colonel Mulligan to check the advancing of the

enemy, who, it is said, had about twenty thousand soldiers. Hayes was badly equipped, having no cavalry and only a small number of men. At once he knew that his men must fight desperately if they expected to escape.

In a few moments they found themselves surrounded by the cavalry of General Early, and at the moment it looked very much as if they would be compelled to surrender, or, if they attempted to fight, suffer a heavy loss of men. McKinley was still on Hayes's staff, and he with the rest of the regiment had a most trying ordeal before them. Hayes was confident that there would be some way in which to act that would prove advantageous for his regiment. Just then he noticed that Brown's West Virginia regiment, which was in an orchard near by, was holding its ground, and, fearing that it would not surrender until given orders to that effect and that it would be captured, said: "They must be informed that the retreat has sounded." Just then Lieutenant McKinley passed by. "Lieutenant, do you see, yonder, Brown's regiment?" Hayes asked. The young officer saluted and said: "I do, General." "It seems that the Colonel did not hear the retreat; he does not seem to realize that he alone is fighting a body of men ten times his own. He must be given an order to withdraw. Will you carry that order to him?"

"I will, General."

"Understand, it is a very perilous journey."

"I know that, General, but I will go."

And before another word was spoken he was off, advancing toward the disabled regiment.

The course compelled him to go before the fire of the enemy. Bullets flew around him on all sides, and once, just as he was reaching his destination, a shell burst almost under the feet of his horse and completely inwrapped him in the smoke.

"He can't get through. We have even lost sight of him," said one.

"He'll never come back alive," murmured one of the captains.

On, and still on he went, all obstacles, encountering bullets in front and behind him, until at last he arrived unhurt, and safe in the presence of Colonel Brown.

"I should have thought you would have retired without waiting for orders," McKinley said.

"I was thinking I would retire without waiting any longer," the Colonel answered, "and now I am ready to go wherever you lead; but before I go I want to give those fellows just one or two more volleys."

"Then let 'em have it quickly," McKinley replied. At once the volleys were given and, following under the leadership of Lieutenant

McKinley, Brown's men started for the rear. Some of them were bewildered; they knew not what to do. One body turned in the direction of the enemy, but with a shout from McKinley they about-faced and went in the right direction.

Lieutenant McKinley brought the regiment back to Winchester, where it took its place in the brigade. The first one to greet the young officer as he dismounted was Hayes, who said: "I never expected to see you again alive. You did your duty well."

During that struggle the loss of officers and men was great. A Captain's rank was vacant, and the records show that the day following after the siege William McKinley, for bravery and devotion to duty, won the vacant post. His assignment was to command Company G of the Twenty-third Ohio.

Another incident is told of McKinley at this time, which shows his kindness of heart.

It seems that many of the inhabitants of the town came out into the streets to see the soldiers go by, and some were affected at the sudden turn of affairs. And it is said that, in particular, there was one old lady in Quaker dress who stood crying at her gate. McKinley rode up and, saluting her, remarked:

"Don't worry, madam, we are not hurt as much as it seems. We shall be back again in a few days."

The retreat was one which lasted until midnight. The line of march was one continuous destruction of property. After marching up and down the Shenandoah Valley for a period of some length McKinley's regiment came to Berryville.

One night, while the regiment was in this locality, Captain McKinley was ordered to take some directions from a Colonel who had misunderstood his orders. It was a very dark night, and McKinley was obliged to go by a dense underbrush.

In speaking of it afterward, he said: "I scarcely knew what to do. I walked on a short distance, when a voice out of the darkness called 'Who goes dar?' That was a Southern voice, and without reply I stepped back and took another course. Then came another voice, 'Who comes there?' and I knew I was once more on the right side. I soon reached the regiment I was seeking, and then there was no more trouble."

It was a most perilous journey, and had the Southerner knew he was a captain from the Union ranks he would have been shot at once.

Soon after this came the battle of Opequan, and here McKinley again distinguished himself by his good judgment and quick perception.

Captain McKinley was at this time on the staff of General Crook, and at the start of the

battle he went to Colonel Duvall with a verbal order from General Crook. Duvall did not know the best way to move his division. McKinley was no more familiar with the country, but he had observed the country closely, as was his wont. "By what route shall I move my command?" inquired Colonel Duvall. McKinley replied by saying, "I would move along this creek."

Duvall, wanting to be more certain, said that he would not move at all without orders. Quick as a flash McKinley, realizing it as a matter of grave importance to move immediately, said, unhesitatingly: "I order you, by command of General Crook, to move your command up this ravine to a position on the right of the army."

Duvall obeyed at once.

It was a daring move, but it showed McKinley's power of decision. He shouldered the whole responsibility. Long after, General Sheridan said to McKinley: "That order of yours was all right because it turned out all right! But if it had turned out wrong, why, then, it would have been very wrong!"

A short time after came the capture on Fisher's Hill.

McKinley himself said, concerning this capture: "This was one of the most brilliant of the many brilliant achievements of General George Crook. It was a flank movement

through the woods and mountains to the enemy's right. Never did troops advance with greater difficulty, on what appeared to be an impossible route over the mountainside, where it seemed the foot of man had never trod. Nothing was more brilliant or decisive during the entire war."

After the enemy retreated, after being pursued for ten miles, the valley seemed to be so much cleared that Sheridan did not think it advisable to make another attack. But Early did not mean to give up his position in the Shenandoah unless forced to. Sheridan left for Washington, and placed in command General Wright. Then came the famous fight, known to every reader of history. It has been beautifully portrayed by T. Buchanan Read in his poem, entitled "Sheridan's Ride."

After consulting with the President and Secretary of War, Sheridan started back to Winchester, nearly twelve miles from his army. He arrived at Winchester on October 18th, spent the night there, and at daybreak started for Cedar Creek. The sound of booming guns startled him. "What!" he said, "the battle can't be on!" He at once hurried in the direction of the sounds. As he rode on he met baggage-wagons and wounded men along the path. He spurred up his horse and rode rapidly on. The route became clogged up more and more, until finally he was com-

pelled to take the field that he might quicken his speed.

Upon arriving he was informed that Early had attacked them at 5 o'clock in the morning, taking Wright by surprise. Now Wright was in a better position, and as Sheridan came on the field of action a mighty cry went up: "It's Sheridan! He will tell us what to do."

General Sheridan rode up to McKinley, who had been earnestly working to keep the enemy from advancing, and asked him where Crook was.

"I left him over there," replied McKinley, as he pointed toward the place.

"Come on, boys!" shouted Sheridan, and he and McKinley rode off together, inspiring the men by their words to follow. It is a matter of history and well known how the Union army, inspired by the gallant leadership of the great General as he dashed down the Shenandoah, drove out Early and his rebel host.

With the defeat of Early the campaign in the Shenandoah came to an end. Sheridan now led his forces to Kernstown, and there established a camp. McKinley's regiment was located first at one place and then at another until the first of January, 1865, when it went to Cumberland. On that day Colonel Hayes received his appointment as Brigadier-General. During the time the regiment was at Cumberland the weather was bitter cold. It rained a

good deal of the time, and food was very scarce. The poor soldiers had a hard time of it, and the officers fared no better than the privates. In some cases the privates were better off, in that most of them had tents, while some of the officers slept on the ground without shelter.

At this time Captain McKinley was serving on the staff of General Crook, and he went with him back to West Virginia. Hancock soon took command, and then McKinley served as a member of his staff. During the winter McKinley was assigned a place on General S. S. Carroll's staff in Washington. He was made Adjutant-General, remaining at this point until the close of the war.

General Sheridan had not forgotten McKinley's brave and ceaseless work during the raid in the valley of the Shenandoah, so he recommended his promotion. It came on March 14th, 1865, when he was elevated to the rank of brevet-major.

His commission read: "For gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Opequan, Cedar Creek, and Fisher's Hill," and was signed by A. Lincoln.

The Twenty-third Ohio was mustered out of service on July 26th, 1865. In those four long years of war no one bore his part with greater fidelity to duty, with greater courage or steadiness than William McKinley, who en-

tered, a mere youth, as a private and came out, at the age of twenty-two, a Major. There are other records perhaps more brilliant, others that gained higher place on their country's roll, but none more faithful, more courageous and more alert in every emergency that William McKinley. He was fortunate in not receiving any wound. Once, at Berryville, his horse was shot from under him, but he was unhurt. The records fail to show that he had more than one furlough. He was never absent from duty on account of illness. It was a record that attracted the attention of many of his superiors, so much so, that General Carroll and others, it is said, urged him to accept a commission in the regular United States Army. It was a tempting offer. Upon the advice and protests of his mother and family, he gave up army life when the war closed.

In narrating McKinley's war record it has been the aim of the author to speak of only the most important engagements in which McKinley took part. To give the record complete it would be necessary to relate a main portion of the history of the Civil War, and that was not the purpose in this chapter. The author has endeavored as often as possible to quote either the words of McKinley himself concerning an engagement, or those of some officer or private on the scene of action who knew exactly what took place.

Military life is hard, even when the best of conditions prevail. But through all those years, which "tried men's souls," through the temptations and rough environments which exist in army life, it can be said truly that during the entire struggle he did not lose his virility, but rather grew stronger in nobility of character.

CHAPTER III.

LAWYER AND OFFICEHOLDER.

THE war having closed, and McKinley having declined a commission in the regular United States Army, he now diverted his attention toward the selection of his lifework. It was soon observed that he had a yearning for legal science. The love of study and reading was still a predominant trait, and with his love of public matters and powers of oratory, his mind naturally tended to the study of the law.

In his youth and young manhood he had the virility and seriousness of a man, and this attracted the professional men who came in contact with him. On one occasion his brother Abner said that "William was just as much a President in his bearing when he was a lad as he was when he took the oath of office." He was always very thoughtful, and formed readily his own conclusions. Some of his chums spoke of him as "the Studious William." He rather enjoyed this distinction.

The story is told that, after he had listened very attentively to a case as it was being presented in court one day, a lawyer said to him:

"Well, Mac, what did you think of the case?" "I thought it went through the wrong way," he replied. "Why do you think so?" continued the lawyer. "The defendant didn't bring out his evidence strong enough. He had a good case, it seemed to me. The goods he bought were not as good as they were represented to be, and it wasn't fair to make him pay the full price for them."

The lawyer expressed the same opinion, and remarked that the case would likely be appealed. And, strange to say, the case was appealed; taken to a higher court, and there tried, and the verdict proved to be just as McKinley said it ought to be—for the defendant.

The story is fitting, inasmuch as it shows very readily the judicial mind that young McKinley had at that early stage of his career.

The young student commenced his study of the law in the office of a well-known member of the Ohio bar in those days, Judge Charles E. Glidden. The Judge had two offices, one in Youngstown, the other at Canton. It was to the former that young McKinley journeyed to study his chosen profession. It is related that he was then a tireless student, reaching the office early in the morning and paying no attention to lateness of hours. On one occasion, the Judge, having forgotten some important papers that he wished to take home, re-

turned about midnight. There McKinley sat, absorbed in a huge law volume.

"Don't you ever expect to stop and go home and go to bed, young man?" inquired the Judge.

"Oh, yes, Judge, after I master this insurance case!" The Judge investigated the case a little, and he, too, became interested. Together they sat down and studied the case for an hour. And when the Judge came to a certain part he said: "What do you think of that?"

"It doesn't seem to me to be right," answered McKinley.

"And it is not right," said the Judge, emphatically. "That decision can never stand as it is."

Two years later, it is said, the decision which both decided to be incorrect was reversed.

After remaining with Judge Glidden for a year and a half, in every available moment of which the young student was employed assiduously in the pursuit of legal knowledge, he left Ohio and entered the celebrated Law School at Albany, N. Y.

A former friend of the author's, now passed beyond the veil, who was McKinley's fellow-student at Albany, said that he did not impress him so much as a brilliant, as he did a *thorough,* student. He went at the bottom of everything, and got as much out of it as pos-

sible. He was earnest, resourceful and diligent throughout his entire course. McKinley would often be found listening to the cases as they were tried before the illustrious bar of the New York Court of Appeals.

Upon graduating from the Albany Law School the young student journeyed to Warren, Ohio, where he was to take his bar examinations. After passing creditably, he located in Canton, Ohio, partly because it was an enterprising and growing town, thereby offering a larger opportunity for his labors, and partly because his sister Anna, the one who had befriended him lovingly in all his undertakings, was teaching school there. McKinley opened a small office on the main street of the town. It might be added that, since those days, the office building has been torn down, and the Stark County court house erected in its place. The young lawyer was not pressed for time professionally in those days, but now and then a little work would come his way.

One day Judge Belden, of Canton, whose office was in the same building as McKinley's, came in and handed the young attorney a bundle of papers, saying: "Mac, here are the papers in a case which is coming up to-morrow. I've got to be out of town, and I want you to try it."

"I have never tried a case, you know,

Judge," McKinley meekly replied. "Begin on this one, then," answered Belden.

McKinley at once took the papers, and set to work on the case. He sat up all night and studied it. The next day he went to court and won it. While he was pleading the Judge came in the room, with a twinkle in his eye, and sat down. McKinley did not see him for a few days after he had won the case. Finally one day the Judge came in McKinley's office and handed the young lawyer $25, which McKinley refused to accept, saying: "It is too much, Judge, for one day's pay." "Nonsense, Mac," said Judge Belden. "Don't let that worry you. I charged them $100, and can easily afford to give you a quarter of it." From that day on McKinley's law practice began to increase, until he became one of the most prominent lawyers in Canton.

In McKinley's law pleading he indulged in cogent elucidation of facts, and placed them in logical order. His gift of oratory and most pleasing personality helped him in arguing before a jury. He took no mean advantages over his colleague. He always played fair; content to be right, whether he was praised or blamed. He was more anxious to be just than famous. He soon became a leader of the Ohio bar. His early success as a lawyer cannot be better proved than by the fact that in two years from the time he entered upon

his profession he was elected prosecuting attorney of his county, a distinction rarely conferred upon so young a man. Shortly before this appointment he formed a partnership with George W. Belden, then Federal District-Attorney for the Ohio district, the gentleman who had given him his first case. And this partnership lasted until the Judge's death.

In preparing his cases, it is said that McKinley took nothing for granted. He studied the evidence thoroughly, and arranged his facts in a logical manner, so he could give the points of an argument in such a way as to convince and impress. He would take as much pains with an easy case as he would with one that was complicated. He was conscientious in accepting retainers. When starting as a lawyer he promised his mother that he would never take a case that he did not think was right, and he never allowed that promise to be obliterated from his memory. It is said that he would often do more in the interest of a client than was required. Said a gentleman in later years: "During his law career McKinley and his partner took up three cases for our firm. They won two and lost the other. At first we were angry at losing that last case, but, looking back, I am satisfied that McKinley did all that any lawyer could do, and more than many would do. A similar case was tried in Philadelphia by the leading lawyers of

that city, and fell through, just as ours did."

McKinley soon became very popular. The people saw in him a large, warm-hearted character. The community in which he lived strove to help his progress. The young man had enemies, as all who rise up in the world do, many tried to put him backward, but the majority loved him for his kindness of heart and affability.

There was another case which will bear mention, as it showed McKinley's honesty and fairness perhaps more than any other which he ever tried. He had been engaged as counsel in a very important case, one that involved thousands of dollars. As he was about to open it he received a notice from his legal opponent asking for a delay. "I am ready to proceed," said McKinley. "Why does my opponent ask for a delay? Everything is in readiness. I cannot grant one unless there is a good reason for it."

He then learned that some valuable papers of his opponent's had been lost. McKinley granted the request for a delay. A few hours later he was found in the law library, studying the case further, when he came across the lost documents. He took them up; handed them to the librarian, requesting him to give them to Mr. Blank, the lawyer who had asked for the delay. The case came up the next day, and by the trend of McKinley's argument it

showed that the honest young lawyer had not looked at the papers. McKinley lost the case, but put in at once a notice of appeal. Mr. Blank said afterwards to some friends that McKinley would have won if he had read the lost documents. When the case came up the second time McKinley won, and ever afterwards it is said the two opposing lawyers were warm friends.

McKinley's legal knowledge came into serviceable play in not a few of the many public positions that were given him to fill.

In Congress he was first put on the Committee on the Revision of Laws of Judiciary.

And it is said that his legal views while in Congress, except perhaps on political questions, were never assailed. During his long Congressional service the librarian often found him in the section of the Congressional Library devoted to jurisprudence, consulting authorities. Lawyers and judges of the Ohio courts, it is said, often remarked that: "If McKinley stated a proposition it was difficult to gainsay it, so thorough had been his examinations, and so ethically accurate were his comments."

Some of the volumes of Critchfield's Ohio Reports show that Mr. McKinley practised his chosen profession during the Congressional recesses. But it is said that "he declined practice in pension cases and before the Court of

Claims, because he was unwilling to incur the suspicion of bartering subsequent votes as to claims through counsel fees." And it is also said that "he would not appear as private counsel before committees of the House or Senate, or among the departments of the government."

Although McKinley had acquired a good education, he never ceased to be a student. He recognized that knowledge was the door that unlocks opportunity and advancement to the individual. Up to the very day of his untimely death he was eager to learn something that he had never known before. It was related in Civil War times that Attorney-General Bates once said: "Confound the President, Lincoln is so excellent a lawyer under the maxim, *ladem ratio ibidem lex,* that he is apt to advise himself offhand in matters that appertain to the Department of Justice, and does not call for an official opinion."

The same case existed with the Ohio Attorney-General and McKinley, when the latter was Governor of Ohio. The Governor was so familiar with the laws of Ohio, and was so used to being his own legal adviser, that he would often without thinking advise himself offhand in matters relating to the Department of Justice, as Lincoln did in a national sphere. And when McKinley became the Chief Executive of the nation his legal knowledge again came into play. As an officeholder, McKinley

was faithful to every trust. His personal popularity exceeded that of any man of his generation.

His friendly, loyal and unselfish disposition won him lasting friends. He was generous to a fault. Indeed, his generosity knew no bounds. He never permitted small things to worry him, and it is said that defeat never made him gloomy. His campaigns were conducted on a high plane. He never spoke ill of any one, and none could truthfully speak ill of him.

In the fall after his marriage, in 1871, McKinley was defeated by a very narrow margin of 45 votes for re-election as Prosecuting Attorney of Stark County. After his defeat he resumed the practice of the law for five years. During this period he was an ardent Republican, but had no personal interests in the results of the elections, except in wishing for party success. He always took an active part, however, in each campaign as a stump speaker.

Party bosses and political veterans are not inclined to recognize, if they can help it, young blood that seeks political preferment, unless it does not affect their plans of leadership.

McKinley was no exception to the rule. His friends had urged him to seek the nomination for Congress. He, being ambitious in that direction, accepted their proposal, and an-

nounced himself as a candidate. It is said the party managers of his district did not take much notice of his candidacy, and little thought that McKinley would win. He went into the canvass in his usual vigorous style, being known at that time only as a young lawyer of Canton and former Prosecuting Attorney of Stark County. The good work which McKinley rendered the party in the preceding campaign, when he assisted his old commander, General Hayes, in his contest for the Governorship, won him many votes. A friend has told the author, when speaking of those days, how McKinley and he hired a horse and buggy and drove around the country, meeting personally the voters of the various towns and villages. Although his first nomination was hard to secure, the election resulted in a victory for McKinley of a plurality of more than thirty-three hundred. It is not strange that the old political war-horses were surprised at the rise of this young man, who was only thirty-three, but ever afterwards his party leaders and constituents were proud of him as their representative. When his opponents raised the question of his youth, as some did, they did not remember that Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence when he was but thirty-three, that Henry Clay became Senator at twenty-nine, that Madison went to Congress when he was twenty-nine, or that Webster

and Blaine entered Congress at thirty-one and thirty-two, respectively.

McKinley was put at the bottom of the Committee on the Revision of Laws by Speaker Randall. A committee of not much importance, still it gave the young Congressman time for study and research. In his first years in Congress he was modest, contenting himself to be a silent listener, rather than speaking upon every subject that came up. But it is said that when he did speak he had something to say that was worth hearing. The young Congressman grew day by day in mental strength, and soon became a persistent worker. After the day's work at the Capitol he went straight to his hotel and his invalid wife. Tom Murray, who was the manager of the House restaurant for years, tells us that he watched McKinley's daily coming for a bowl of crackers and milk, which, consumed, he returned to his work, while his colleagues "regaled upon terrapin and champagne." Yet it is said that McKinley was very popular with his fellow-members on both sides of the House.

His colleague from Ohio, Hon. John A. Kasson, in speaking of McKinley's Congressional career, has said: "I well remember his courteous manner, his flow of candid speech, his patience under interruption by more excitable members. He always answered by truthful statement or conscientious argument, not

by sharp and impatient repartee, as was our more common custom in that numerous assembly. Candor and kindness appeared to be instinct of his nature. His breast gave no shelter to malice or anger. In return, neither wrath nor antipathy ever found expression against that patient and courteous gentleman; for gentleman he was in manner and in every impulse of mind and heart."

His real Congressional prominence began in his second term in Congress or upon the retirement of General Garfield from the Ways and Means Committee after election to the Presidency, in 1880. From the day he entered Congress McKinley was a protectionist. His district was a manufacturing one, and this, naturally, led him to consider industrial problems. In his own mind he saw where protection was a benefit, and then and there proposed to stand by that cause. He faltered not, but sought with all his energy and intellectual vigor to impress Congress with his views. In a very brief period, when measured by the course of others, he won unusual distinction by his judgment and sagacity. When we remember that he began at the foot of the ladder in committee appointment and steadily worked his way to the front, it is all the more praiseworthy. In his book, "Twenty Years in Congress," James G. Blaine speaks of McKinley, in reviewing the Forty-fifth Congress, in the

following words: "The interests of his constituency and his own bend of mind led him to the study of industrial questions, and he was soon recognized in the House as one of the most thorough statisticians and one of the ablest defenders of the doctrine of protection."

McKinley's greatest work in Congress was, of course, on the tariff question. He became a past master in every phase of that subject. A perusal of the "Congressional Record" during the time in which he was a member of the House will show no better exponent of it than William McKinley. Some one has said that "he was a thorough master of all the intricacies of commercial history and commercial theory which the work of handling such a law in the passage through Congress demanded. He did the work with consummate ability, and entirely earned his right to be known as the father of the McKinley bill, and henceforward as the leading exponent of the protective doctrine in the Republican party." The tariff question is generally regarded as dry and uninteresting to the average person, but McKinley had a way of presenting facts and theories and clothing them in such interesting language that his addresses on that subject were noteworthy.

The bill which bore his name was signed by the President and became a law on October 6, 1890. For the success of this measure McKinley labored early and late. He never

swerved. No duties were fixed until every condition that was worthy of consideration had been heard. The work was carefully done, and when it was finished, it was said to be "the best, the most complete bill ever produced." The Hon. John Sherman said of the bill, in a letter to W. C. Harding, of Boston, that, "on the whole, it is the fairest and best tariff, not only for revenue, but for protection, that has had a place on our statute book."

In closing his speech on the bill before its passage, and after he had explained its provisions and had spoken upon the tariff question as a whole, McKinley said:

"Experience has demonstrated that for us and ours, and for the present and the future, the protective system meets our wants, our conditions, promotes the national design, and will work out our destiny better than any other.

"With me this position is a deep conviction, not a theory. I believe in it and thus warmly advocate it, because enveloped in it are my country's highest development and greatest prosperity; out of it come the greatest gains to the people, the greatest comforts to the masses, the widest encouragement for manly aspirations, with the largest rewards, dignifying and elevating our citizenship, upon which the safety and purity and permanence of our political system depend."

McKINLEY IN HIS LIBRARY, CANTON, OHIO.

Courtesy of Roller Pub. Co., Canton, Ohio.

While it is not the aim to go into McKinley's Congressional work as a whole, for it would be impossible in this chapter, still the above was given to show how deepy he felt in regard to the passage of the bill in which he had worked so earnestly and so long.

It will be remembered that the incoming administration under Cleveland placed upon the statute books the Wilson-Gorman tariff, which took the place of the McKinley bill. And when it was remarked that the McKinley bill caused the defeat at the polls of the Republican party, the next year after its passage, William McKinley said to Mark Hanna the following: "That may have been so, but the bill was passed so short a time prior to election that it was easy for our opponents to make charges, and there was no time for us to combat them; but wait and see, Mark; wait and see. The principles and policies of that bill will yet win a greater victory for our party than we have ever had before. This misunderstanding will yet contribute to overwhelming Republican success."

McKinley served fourteen years in the House, and when he came up for the eighth nomination he found himself facing, as it has been said, a difficult campaign, inasmuch as the Democrats had obtained control of the Ohio Legislature and had gerrymandered his district. This was the second time that this

had been done. McKinley's opponent was the Hon. John G. Warwick, a gentleman who had previously served as Lieutenant-Governor of the State. Nevertheless, the Major, as McKinley's friends called him, went into the contest with as much spirit as in former campaigns, and worked hard for his re-election. He came within 300 votes of winning. It was the second and last time that McKinley lost an election.

After it was known that he had been defeated he was asked to make a statement in regard to the result, and, taking up a "Congressional Record," he wrote on the back page these words:

"Protection was never stronger than it is at this hour, and it will grow in strength and in the hearts of the people. It has won in every contest before the people from the beginning of the government. The elections this year were determined upon a false issue. A conspiracy between importers and the free traders of this country to raise prices and charge it upon the McKinley bill was successful. But conspiracies are short-lived and soon expire. This one has already been laid bare, and the infamy of it will still further appear. Increased prosperity, which is sure to come, will outrun the maligner and vilifier. Keep up your courage. Strengthen your organizations and be ready for the great battle in Ohio in

1891, and the still greater in 1892. Home and country will triumph in the end. Their enemies, whether here or abroad, will never be placed in permanent control of the Government of Washington, of Lincoln, and of Grant."

His defeat for re-election to Congress brought him forth as the candidate for Governor of Ohio. Even before he left Congress he was looked upon as candidate. When the convention convened no other name was presented, and McKinley was nominated on the first ballot. The Major spoke during the campaign which followed in eighty-five counties of the State, and made one hundred and thirty-four speeches. At the polls in November he won a decisive victory over his opponent, Governor Campbell, who had been renominated by the Democratic Convention. McKinley's first term as Governor was a quiet administration. In the summer of 1893 he was renominated, and was elected by a still larger majority than in the first contest, receiving at the time the largest vote that the State of Ohio had ever given a candidate for Governor. His second administration was a far more difficult one. In the first year alone McKinley was compelled to call out the militia some fifteen times to maintain peace.

It was on one of these occasions that a politician called to see the Governor. Mr. McKinley was engaged at the time and could not

be interrupted, and this was reported to the gentleman. After Governor McKinley's secretary informed the man that the Governor was busy, the man said: "Tell him that, in my opinion, if he calls out the State militia, he will never become President of the United States." Quick as a flash, with the delivery of the message, Governor McKinley turned to his secretary and said: "You return to that man and tell him that we will take care of the strike first and the Presidency afterwards."

Just about this time occurred the unfortunate affair of the failure of Mr. Robert L. Walker, capitalist, banker and boyhood friend of Governor McKinley's. When McKinley ran for the first time for Congress Mr. Walker had helped him financially. He had also loaned McKinley money at other periods of the Major's life; but these debts had all been paid. Mr. Walker came to McKinley one day and asked him to endorse some notes for him, saying that he was pressed for money. McKinley, trusting his old friend, gladly did as requested, remembering how Mr. Walker had helped him. The Governor also endorsed other notes from time to time to help his friend out only. He felt confident in doing this, as Mr. Walker was a prominent man of Youngstown, enjoyed the friendship of the community, and was said to be rated at $250,000. The notes were made payable in thirty, sixty and

ninety days. And, to quote Mr. Murat Halstead, "Major McKinley endorsed, as he supposed, about $15,000 worth. They were discounted as Walker planned, and Major McKinley thought no more of the matter until February 17th, 1893. On that day Youngstown and Mahoning Valley was startled by the assignment of Robert L. Walker, a judgment of $12,000 against the Youngstown Stamping Company causing the failure. The stove company, the coal mines and the other enterprises of Mr. Walker's went down by the next day. Then the banks which held the Walker paper began to figure. Major McKinley was leaving his home to go to the banquet of the Ohio Society in New York when he was informed of the disaster. He cancelled his New York engagement, and took the first train to Youngstown. There he learned that instead of being on the Walker paper for $15,000, his liability in that direction was over $100,000. He could not understand it. Banks all over the State telegraphed him they had some of the paper. He was under the impression the paper had been discounted in but three banks. He had a conference with his friends. He told them he had endorsed a number of notes, but he understood that fully half of them were made out to take up notes which he had first endorsed, and which had fallen due. A little investigation showed that

the old notes were still unpaid, and the new notes had doubled, trebled, quadrupled the debt. The Walker liabilities were about $200,000, and the assets not half that sum.

After the conference with his Youngstown friends, Major McKinley said: "I can hardly believe this, but it appears to be true. I don't know what my liabilities are, but whatever I owe shall be paid, dollar for dollar."

McKinley was not interested in any of Walker's business enterprises. The connection was simply one of friendship.

McKinley bore up under the strain nobly. "He was again among the ranks of the poor where he started," but he still retained his honesty and untarnished name. Subscriptions began to pour in from all over the State and elsewhere, and although McKinley sent many back, refusing their acceptance, he was, however finally compelled to allow friends to accept the money and pay every endorsement in full. One old colored woman saved up a few dollars from her hard earnings, and that was received among the other gifts of money. On February, 1894, every cent was paid, and the trustees deeded back to the Governor and Mrs. McKinley their original property.

It will be seen that after all the years of preparation, as a lawyer, prosecuting attorney, Congressman and Governor he was well equipped for the Presidency when he was

nominated for that exalted office. He had twice put the opportunity aside; now he was the logical candidate, and he felt that he could accept the offer without infringing on the right of others more entitled to the honor. We have elsewhere spoken of McKinley in the Cabinet room and as Commander-in-Chief. Suffice it to say that he was a statesman and a diplomat of a high order. His administration is yet too near to call forth any comments. That will be done by future writers. It is rather the purpose of this book, as has already been said, to sketch the man, his character and his ways, more than his official acts as a ruler. William McKinley never held himself above the rank and file. He was as kind and as cordial to the laboring people as he was to those in more exalted positions. One day, in the summer of 1901, he was sitting on his porch at Canton, when an old colored man passed by. The old man saw the President on the porch, and cried out: "Hello, Major!" "Hello, Tom!" said McKinley, "come here and let me shake hands with you. How are you, Tom? How is business?" It is needless to say how much it delighted the old man.

McKinley has left us no anecdotes such as Lincoln, but the following story was much enjoyed at McKinley's expense for some time:

On one occasion Mr. McKinley and a lawyer of Canton named Manderson, afterwards

Senator of Nebraska, were to address a meeting at a certain place. McKinley was always very careful in preparing speeches, and this same careful preparation he displayed throughout his entire life. On the appointed day McKinley and Manderson drove over to the town where they were to speak together, and during the course of the drive Manderson said: "Major, what points are you going to bring out mostly in your address to-day? I have not prepared any speech."

"What!" said McKinley, "you going to make a speech and don't know at this late hour what you are goin to say?" "No," said Manderson.

McKinley then commenced to give Manderson a few ideas regarding his address, and the Major, so enviewed and absorbed with his subject, found at the end of the journey that he had simply recited his whole address, and also had produced documents and shown them to his friend to prove his statements.

Manderson suggested that he should speak first, making a few remarks, and then yield over his time to McKinley. So, as agreed, Manderson spoke first, and, having a good memory, simply gave McKinley's speech nearly word for word, and when he had finished said that Major McKinley had documents to prove all the statements that he had made, and, turning to McKinley, said: "Just let me have

the documents," and there was nothing else to do but to hand them over to him. McKinley's turn came; he spoke briefly and retired. That was the first and only time McKinley was caught unawares or allowed another to get the better of him. Justice Day, of the Supreme Court, McKinley's Secretary of State, who told the author this story, said that it was a standing joke on McKinley for a long time around Ohio.

It is often asked, especially by the young, if the great men of our history, those who attained the Presidency, ever wished or thought in their boyhood or young manhood that they would some day become President of the United States.

We know that many did. Take Lincoln, for instance. One day, in answer to a lady's question of what he was going to make out of himself, said, "Oh, I will work and study, and some day become President." When the author asked a friend of McKinley's whether the President ever thought about those things in his youth, he replied that he did. He said that McKinley had promised a fellow-lawyer, that when he became President he (McKinley) woud appoint his friend to the Supreme Court bench. The President did not forget his promise, and the place was duly offered to the gentleman, but the latter, for certain reasons, declined the honor. It is also said that when

McKinley first entered Congress he had the Presidency in view.

Having been so long in the legislative department of the government, he understood the relation between Congress and the Executive when he became President. He never antagonized Congress, but he was none the less strong in advocating the views which he wanted the Congress to consider. His methods with Congress resembled those of Garfield's.

Senator Hoar has said that: "President McKinley, with his great wisdom and tact, and his delightful individual quality, succeeded in establishing an influence over the members of the Senate, not, I think, equalled from the beginning of the Government, except possibly by Andrew Jackson."

On the 19th of January, 1886, Congressman McKinley delivered a speech in the House of Representatives in accepting the statue of General Garfield, which was presented by the State of Ohio and placed in Statuary Hall.

It was so singularly like his own life and death that we could not close this chapter more fittingly in summing up McKinley's public career than to quote in part from its text:

"In life his great character and commanding qualities earned the admiration of the citizens of his own State and the nation at large, while the lessons of his life and the teachings of his broad mind will be cherished and remembered

when marbles and statues have crumbled to decay.

"He was brave and sagacious. He filled every part with intelligence and fidelity. Distinguished as was his military career, his most enduring fame, his highest renown, was earned in this House as a Representative of the people. Here he grew with gradual but increasing strength. Here he won his richest laurels. Here he was leader and master, not by combination or scheming, not by chicanery, or caucus, but by the force of his cultivated mind, his keen and far-seeing judgment, his unanswerable logic, his strength and power of speech, his thorough comprehension of the subjects of legislation.

"In personal character he was clean and without reproach. As a citizen he loved his country and her institutions, and was proud of her progress and prosperity. As an orator he was exceptionally strong and gifted. As a soldier he stood abreast with the bravest and best of the citizen soldiery of the Republic. As a legislator his most enduring testimonial will be found in the records of Congress and the statutes of his country. As President he displayed moderation and wisdom."

CHAPTER IV.

AN ORATOR AND HIS SPEECHES.

FRANKLIN said of Lord Chatham: "I have sometimes seen eloquence without wisdom, and often wisdom without eloquence; but in him I have seen them united in the highest possible degree." What Franklin said of Lord Chatham may be said of William McKinley. In his eloquence there was logic, courageous thought, sincerity and truth. His earnestness and forcible way of putting arguments and his deep sympathy with the common heart of humanity made him not only an orator of the first magnitude, but won for him the admiration and friendship of the masses of his fellow-countrymen.

He was gifted in the making of striking phrases, and often in these he looked with prophetic vision into the future.

The way in which he set forth facts and theories, embodied as they were in a single phrase, and the numerous subjects which he handled gave proof, more than anything else, of the fertility of resource and the flexibility of his mind.

He was always very careful in preparing

his letters, messages and speeches. Through them all is found running his characteristic style of thought, and his foresight, courage and common sense. No American orator ever produced purer rhetoric or exhibited more enthusiastic earnestness or more beautiful sentiment.

John Hay said: "He became from year to year the most prominent politician and orator in the country. Passionately devoted to the principles of his party, he was always ready to do anthing, to go anywhere, to proclaim its ideas, and to support its candidates. His face and his voice became familiar to millions of our people, and wherever they were seen and heard men became his partisans. His face was cast in a classic mould; you see faces like it in antique marble in the galleries of the Vatican and in portraits of the great Cardinal-statesmen of Italy; his voice was the voice of the perfect orator—ringing, vibrating, tireless, persuading by its very sound, by its accent of sincere conviction. So prudent and so guarded were all his utterances, so lofty his courtesy, that he never embarrassed his friends, and never offended his opponents."

Such was John Hay's opinion of William McKinley, the orator. Men who had heard McKinley's first speech say that it was strong and logical, and insist that at that early day they foresaw a great career in public life for the young speaker.

According as the story goes, McKinley did not make his maiden speech as a political "spellbinder" on a finely arranged platform, but on a drygoods box, in the little town of New Berlin, Ohio. It seems that he was invited over from Canton on that occasion to fill a vacancy caused by a speaker who was unable, at the last moment, to be present.

The drygoods box was placed in front of the village post office. Mr. Michael Bitzer, who was still living a few years ago at the age of eighty-six, was chairman of the meeting, and when McKinley, a mere youth in appearance, stepped upon the platform the first question of the presiding officer was, addressing the young man, "Can you make a speech?" The rest of the story may be told by Mr. Bitzer himself:

"Could he speak? Well, I should say he could. Everybody was simply dumfounded. For nearly an hour he talked as never a young man in Stark County had talked before. I told Judge Underhill, who accompanied him, after the meeting that McKinley did a blamed sight better than he did, and the Judge, too, pronounced him a coming politician.

"I really was surprised when Judge Underhill introduced that young stripling of a boy to me, saying that he had come to make a speech in place of another Judge, who was unable to be present. Of course, I only asked

McKinley in a joke if he could make a speech. I spoke to him much as I would to a boy, but I really did have my doubts about such a young man doing justice to the occasion."

Mr. Bitzer introduced him as William McKinley, of Canton. It is said that McKinley arose and looked over his audience in a way as though accustomed all his life to making speeches. There was not a sign of the perturbation which generally accompanies the maiden effort of a speaker. "But," says Mr. Bitzer, "as I remember him, the same strong characteristics which have been so notable in his public life within the last few years stood out forcibly on that night."

Ever after that first speech he was in constant demand as a campaigner. In the Presidential campaign of 1868 he spoke at town halls and schoolhouses throughout the country, so by the time his own campaign in 1869 for Prosecuting Attorney came along he was equal to the task. It has been said that "he was assiduous in his campaigning and persuasive, not antagonistic, in his arguments."

When McKinley entered Congress Rutherford B. Hayes, his old military commander and personal friend, was President. The Chief Magistrate was closely watching the career of his former comrade, and one day he said to McKinley: "To achieve success and fame you must pursue a special line. You must not

make a speech on every motion offered or bill introduced. You must confine yourself to one particular thing; become a specialist. Take up some branch of legislation and make that your study. Why not take up the subject of the tariff? Being a subject that will not be settled for years to come, it offers a great field for study and a chance for ultimate fame."

With these words ringing, as it were, in his ears, McKinley at once set to work on the study of the tariff question. He saw where protection was a benefit, and then and there proposed with unconquering zeal to stand by that cause. He never faltered. It was a recognized fact that McKinley had a thorough and complete knowledge of the tariff. He believed in protection, because he was convinced it was necessary for the prosperity of the country. It was not a theory with him, but a sound, settled conviction.

McKinley, in speaking, never indulged in any flights of oratory; he never told any anecdotes; he went straight to the subject of his theme, and used argument and illustration to convince his hearers.

One of his leading opponents in the House used to say that he had to brace himself mentally not to be carried away by the strong undercurrent of McKinley's irresistibly persuasive talk.

His first speech in Congress, which was de-

livered at a night session, was in opposition to Fernando Wood's non-protective bill, which was introduced in the House during the season of 1878.

Like Lincoln, he could state the argument of his adversary as justly and as impetuous as his own.

Old politicians soon discovered that a new force was arising on the political horizon; and when the day came upon which McKinley reported and opened the debate on the tariff bill which bears his name, it won for him lasting renown as a debater and orator.

It has been said that "his contrast between protection and free trade, which closed that famous utterance, points at once a picture and a prophecy."

"We have now," he said, in closing, "enjoyed twenty-nine years continuously of protective tariff laws—the longest uninterrupted period in which that policy has prevailed since the formation of the Federal Government, and we find ourselves at the end of that period in a condition of independence and prosperity, the like of which has no parallel in the recorded history of the world. In all that goes to make a nation great and strong and independent, we have made extraordinary strides. We have a surplus revenue and a spotless credit.

"To reverse this system means to stop the progress of this Republic. It means to turn

the masses from ambition, courage and hope to dependence, degradation and despair.

"Talk about depression! We would have it then in its fulness. Everything would indeed be cheap, but how costly when measured by the degradation that would ensue! When merchandise is cheapest, men are poorest, and the most distressing experiences of our country—aye, of all history—have been when everything was lowest and cheapest, measured in gold, and everything was highest and dearest, measured by labor."

It is singular that McKinley's first speech in the halls of Congress was on the protective tariff question and his last speech was also on that subject. How eloquent McKinley could make his speeches on the supposedly dry subject of the tariff is well illustrated by an anecdote told by one of the noted judges of that time:

A bill was pending in the House, and a number of speakers were to talk on either side before a final vote was taken. McKinley, who was put on the list was next to the last speaker on his side. When his turn came, his hearers became tired out and were getting anxious to retire from the chamber. But as McKinley proceeded one after another turned to listen attentively, until the whole House was following every word he said. When he concluded there was a burst of applause, and the Hon.

COPYRIGHT BY J. C. HEMMENT

A CHARACTERISTIC POSE

Reproduced by courtesy of Collier's Weekly.

D. C. Haskill, who spoke last pressed forward, shook McKinley's hand cordially and said: "Major McKinley," with real earnestness, "I shall speak last; but you, sir, have closed the debate."

Critics have said that President McKinley was a man of one idea. Because of his vast and manifold study of the tariff question and because he was identified so closely with that subject, they presumingly supposed he was lacking in knowledge upon other subjects. Nothing could be farther from the truth than that supposition.

General Grosvener, who served long with McKinley in Congress, and who knew him intimately in private and public life, says, regarding McKinley as a man of one idea:

"During Governor McKinley's long service in Congress he gave special attention to the subject of the tariff, and as a member of the Ways and Means Committee devoted much of his time to revenue legislation; but it must not be understood that Governor McKinley is a man of power and a man of knowledge upon a single subject. It has been said of him incidentally that he is a statesman upon a single question and a man of learning with a single idea. No greater error could possibly be suggested.

"Since the expiration of his term in Congress and during his four years in the admin-

istration, as Governor of Ohio, he has delivered addresses upon a great variety of questions, and discussed a large number of subjects, all outside of his specialty in national politics. He has made many notable speeches upon questions wholly independent and differing from mere political considerations. Among the notable speeches which he made in Congress other than upon the tariff question were: upon the contest against Judge Taylor in the Forty-fourth Congress; the subject of free and fair elections in the same Congress; a memorial address on the death of Garfield; payment of pensions in the Forty-ninth Congress; the Dependent Pension bill in the same Congress; the purchase of Government bonds in the Fiftieth Conress; memorial adress on the death of John A. Logan; the question of a quorum in the Fifty-first Congress; civil service reform in the Fifty-first Congress; the Direct Tax Refunding Bill; the Hawaiian Treaty; the eight-hour law; and the Silver bill. These speeches, which are of the highest order of excellence, covered a wide range of subjects.

"Outside of Congress his speeches and public utterances have covered a still wider range. Among those that might be noted as of special interest are his address at Atlanta, Ga., before the Piedmont Chautauqua Association; the 'American Volunteer Soldier,' Memorial Day address at New York City; 'Prospect and

Retrospect,' an address to the pioneers of the Mahoning Valley; 'The American Farmer,' an address before the Ohio State Grange; 'Our Public Schools,' an address at the dedication of a public school building; 'New England and the Future,' an address before the Pennsylvania New England Society; 'The Tribune's Jubilee,' an address at the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the *New York Tribune;* 'Pensions and the Public Debt,' a Memorial Day address at Canton, Ohio; 'No Compromise with the Demagogue,' at the Ohio Republican State Convention of 1891; a Fourth of July address, at Woodstock, Conn., 'The American Working Man;' a Labor Day address at Cincinnati; the 'State of Ohio,' an address before the Ohio State Republican League; 'Oberlin College,' an address before the Cleveland Aumni; 'Issues Make Parties,' an address to the Republican College Clubs of Ann Arbor, Mich; his notification address to Mr. Harrison; a Fourth of July oration at Lakeside; 'The Triumphs of Protection,' an address before the Chautauqua Association, at Beatrice, Neb.; 'An Auxiliary to Religion,' an address at the dedication of the Young Men's Christian Association at Younstown, Ohio; an oration at the dedication of the Ohio Building at the World's Fair at Chicago; a memorial address upon the life and character of Rutherford B. Hayes; a speech at Minneapolis upon questions of national import; an

address on Washington before the Union League Club, of Chicago, February 22nd, 1893; an address to the students of the Northwestern University at Chicago on 'Citizenship and Education,' 'Law, Labor and Liberty,' a Fourth of July oration before the labor organizations of Chicago, addresses before the National Jewish Association at Cleveland, before the National Sangerfest at Cleveland; Grant memorial address at New York; an address at the dedication of the Grant Monument at Galena, Ill.; an address before the Epworth League of the United States at Cleveland; an address before the Christian Endeavorers of the Baptist Union, and before the Christian Endeavor Association of the United Presbyterian Church at Columbus; an address at Albany, N. Y., on Abraham Lincoln; an address before the Chamber of Commerce at Rochester, N. Y., on 'Business and Politics,' before the State (Ohio) Chamber of Commerce on 'Business and Citizenship,' before the German Veterans of the United States, at Columbus; a Memorial Day address at Indianapolis; an address before the Grand Army of the Republic; an address before the Grand Army of the Republic at Pittsburg, and most notably, his splendid oration at the dedication of Chicamauga and Chattanooga Park, and at the Atlanta exposition his speech upon 'Blue and Gray.'

"A careful perusal of these speeches, ora-

tions, and addresses, will show that Governor McKinley, while an absolute master of all that relates to the tariff and all phases of governmental revenue, had yet distinguished himself in these other fields of oratory by the same thoroughness of knowledge and the same beauty of oratorical effect. His oratory is of the choicest character; phrases and sentences came tripping and bubbling forth from him apparently without preparation, apparently without effort, forming the most beautiful constellations of oratorical effect and oratorical beauty."

Although McKinley's voice had a wonderful carrying power, it is said that the impress of conviction it carried rather than the mere voice therof exerted a far-reaching effect on his audiences.

His attitude in regard to his convictions is aptly illustrated by the following anecdote. It occurred in his congressional campaign of 1882, when on account of the Democratic tidal wave, he was returned by a very small majority. Referring to this one day, Congressman Springer said in rather a derisive manner: "Your constituents do not seem to support you, Mr. McKinley." Mr. McKinley's reply was worthy of a Roman tribune. "My fidelity to my constituents," he said, "is not measured by the support they give me. I have convictions

I would not surrender if 10,000 majority were entered against me."

As an orator, he did not belong to that class of public speakers who tried to win, through sensations or mock pathos; but what he had to say, was said in the most earnest and unaffected style. It never failed, however, in its effectiveness.

The great words which he uttered in the Chicago convention of 1888, when his name was before the House as a candidate for the Presidency, have been called "literary gems." He had gone as a delegate from Ohio, and was pledged for John Sherman.

This speech throws an admirable light on McKinley's character and political integrity. Shaking his head vigorously, said: "Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention: I am here as one of the chosen representatives of my state; I am here by a resolution of the Republican convention, passed without one dissenting voice, commanding me to cast my vote for John Sherman and use every worthy endeavor for his nomination. I accepted the trust because my heart and judgment were in accord with the letter and spirit of that resolution. It has pleased certain delegates to vote for me. I am not insensible to the honor they would do me, but in the presence of the duty resting upon me I cannot remain silent with honor. I cannot consistently with the credit of the state

whose credentials I bear, and which has trusted me; I cannot with honorable fidelity to John Sherman, who has trusted me in his cause and with his confidence; I cannot consistently with my own views of personal integrity, consent, or seem to consent, to permit my name to be used as a candidate before this convention. I would not respect myself if I could find it in my heart to do so, to pay or to permit that to be done which could even be ground for any one to suspect that I wavered in my loyalty to the chief of her choice and the chief of mine. I do not request—I demand—that no delegate who *would not cast reflection upon me, shall cast a ballot for me.*"

As the Lincoln-Douglas debate brought Lincoln before the eyes of the country, so McKinley's continued campaigning made him the central figure of the political world. Beginning with his campaign for Congress in 1890, which resulted in his defeat, and the Gubernatorial canvass of 1891, the congressional campaign of 1892, the second fight for the Governorship in 1893, the great congressional contest of 1894, the Ohio campaign of 1895, and the great struggle for the Presidency in 1896. McKinley was constantly in battle; never ceasing in his work of advocacy and loyalty to party principles. His voice seemed to gain in power and strength, instead of breaking down under the constant strain. As a campaigner and his

appearance on the public rostrum, Murat Halstead gives us a vivid and lucid description in his "Life and Distinguished Services of William McKinley," as published by the author in 1900; he says:

"It is interesting to note the way McKinley begins a speech. The hall is always filled when he is booked to talk. It usually happens that it is difficult to get him into the hall, because of the crowds on the outside. The moment he appears on the platform is a signal for a prolonged and vehement cheering. His face flushes a little and his eyes flash. He breathes quickly and compresses his lips, the lines around the mouth taking prominence. He brushes the hair back from his forehead with a nervous hand. Though outwardly composed, it appears to those who know him that he is a little anxious and a bit apprehensive, possibly almost alarmed. It is worthy of note when he steps on a platform and is greeted with enthusiasm, he bows low and waves his hands from side to side. The silk hat is always in the right hand, the brim firmly gripped. This is generally ruffed, for at the moment he forgets that it gets pressed. The bowing continues until the fury of the reception shows a sign of abatement. For the last four years almost every chairman of a meeting has introduced him as "the next President." To those who campaigned with him, this became somewhat of a

joke, and there were bets made, the odds being always two to one that would be the introduction. Now the chairman of a political meeting is generally a man of consequence in the neighborhood where the meeting is held. The opportunity of introducing such an orator as McKinley does not come often, and every chairman takes advantage of it. It is amusing to note the expression of McKinley's face when the introduction is prolonged. He frowns almost imperceptibly. Only one who has studied his countenace would notice it. There follows a look of weariness and then of impatience. He moves his feet a little and is restless. The strain is becomng painful to hear and the compliments dreary. They have been repeated probaby twice before on the same day, and it is not often that anything of keen interest is said. When the inevitable "next President" comes the Major's face is impassive. One would not know from his attitude that the reference was to him. He does not seem to hate it, but would as leave it was omitted.

Finally the chairman has come to the "Fellow citizens, I have the great pleasure, etc.," and McKinley steps forward and there are cheers. The speaker clasps his hands behind him and bows right and left, to the pit and to the gallery. He moves his hand to still the enthusiasts and begins. He has discovered whether there are women present and then in

a voice almost inaudible says, "Ladies and Gentlemen, my fellow citizens." The opening sentence is always a striking one. It is spoken in a low tone. Some one in the rear of the hall or at the edge of the crowd says "Louder!" and there are many sounds of "Shu!" McKinley pays no attention to the interruption except to wave one hand again. The voice of the orator becomes stronger and in ten sentences the words ring and reach every corner of the hall. The audience is leaning forward, eager to catch every word. As he proceeds the Major warms. He gesticulates with both hands. He hits the air a little to emphasize a point and while his attitude is unstudied it is graceful. He owns the crowd now. It is hypnotized by his eloquence. His hair grows damp with perspiration. Possibly a dark lock will stray over his forehead. It is impatiently brushed back and the sweep of a handkerchief cools the brow. His eyes are flashing fire. His breast heaves with the storm. His voice rushes from between his teeth and his lips are compressed as he finishes a word. His tones are pitched in a higher key. There is a metallic tone in the voice and yet it is musical. His bearing is impassioned. He has forgotten self and is regardless of everything, but his subject. One perceives that he is sincere in what he says. Every one sees that he is in dead earnest, that this is no sham passion but the real thing. His words pierce

the air defiantly and it is astonishing any creature can fail of conviction. The audience has grown intense in its interest. Many forget to cough or move. They are absorbed and their little selfishnesses are neglected. Every now and then some deep voice says "That is so!" or utters an "Amen." His companions, who have heard him a hundred times are as interested as those who are hearing him for the first time. There is no resisting the earnestness of the orator, for all his soul and strength are in the speech. There will be nothing more serious in the sound of the last trumpet. Some one may interrupt to ask a question, to try to "stump him," to catch him unawares. McKinley is so discussing his subject that he fails to hear what is said. He stops and looks in the direction of the ground and then says sharply, "What's that?" The audience cries, "Put him out." Probably the question is repeated. There is no hesitancy in the answer. The Major is ready. He turns a laugh on the questioner, by his flashing reply. He takes no mean advantage, but answers the question frankly. Generally his reply is epigrammatic. It always is complete. Major McKinley has dramatic power and a magnetism as a speaker. In describing scenes he pictures realistically. The old soldiers are always impressed when he refers to them. Again and again he has brought tears to the eyes of the veterans when he has

told of the horrors of war. Old men sob like children and there is scarcely a dry eye in the multitude. There is a sincerity in his tributes to soldiers that is convincing. He has been there. He knows what he is talking about. Though of any one else, his talk of the war might be called stagey; that criticism is never made of McKinley. It would be impossible to find a speaker who has a better grasp of the subject, whether finance, protection, arbitration or foreign affairs. His talk is always illustrative and comprehensible and instructive. It is serious. There are not anecdotes to amuse. The orator does not convince by raising laughs, but rather by the indisputability of statements. It is a grave matter, this campaigning with him. It is a mission, not a jest; an attempt to convert, not to please. Neither does he arouse passion or opposition by assaults or trivial personalities. He assumes that those who disagree with him are sincere, as he is, and seeks to relieve them of their error."

President McKinley believed in sounding public sentiment. No other President, while performing the duties of his office, ever did so much travelling through the United States as he did; unless it is President Roosevelt.

This was the method by which McKinley became acquainted with the masses, and learned to feel the pulse of the people and satisfy himself in regard to their desires. These

Fold-out Placeholder

This fold-out is being digitized, and will be inserted at a future date.

Fold-out Placeholder

This fold-out is being digitized, and will be inserted at a future date.

trips brought forth the greatest enthusiasm for him, and the greetings and cordial receptions, were marked on the part of the hosts, with the most hearty and genuine demonstrations. All his addresses were carefully worded and because of their good will and fraternal spirit they were received with as much enthusiasm in the South as they were among his own people in the North.

The President began these trips to different parts of the country soon after his inauguration in 1897. The first of these was his visit to New York to make an address at the dedication of the great monument on Riverside Drive, April 27, 1897. That address reveals McKinley's style as a eulogist. The following extract will show its style and sentiment:

"A great life, dedicated to the welfare of the nation, here finds its earthly coronation. Even if this day lacked the impressiveness of ceremony and was devoid of pageantry, it would still be memorable, becauuse it is the anniversary of the birth of the most famous and best beloved of American soldiers . . . .

"With Washington and Lincoln, Grant had an exalted place in the history and the affections of the people. To-day his memory is held in equal esteem by those whom he led to victory, and by those who accepted his generous terms of epace. The veteran leaders of the Blue and Gray here meet not only to honor the

name of Grant, but to testify to the living reality of a fraternal national spirit which has triumphed over the differences of the past and transcends the limitations of sectional lines. Its completion—which we pray God to speed—will be the Nation's greatest glory. It is right that General Grant should have a memorial commensurate with his greatness ,and that his last resting place should be in the city of his choice, to which he was so attached, and of whose ties he was not forgetful even in death. Fitting, too, is it that the great soldier should sleep beside the noble river on whose banks he first learned the art of war, of which he became master without a rival. But let us not forget the glorious distinction with which the metropolis among the fair sisterhood of American cities has honored his life and memory. With all that riches and sculpture can do to render the edifice worthy of the man, upon a site unsurpassed for magnificence, has this monument been reared by New York as a perpetual record of his illustrious deeds, in the certainty that, as time passes, around it will assemble, with gratitude and veneration, men of all climes, races and nationalities.

"New York holds in its keeping the precious dust of the silent soldier, but his achievement —what he and his brave comrades wrought for mankind—are in the keeping of seventy millions of American citizens, who will guard

the sacred heritage forever and forevermore."

He made short trips afterward to attend the unveiling of the Washington statue, at Philadelphia, May 15th, 1897; and to deliver an address before the American Medical Association, at Philadelphia, June 21st, 1897. But his first extended tour was to attend the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, at Nashville, June 11th, 1897, and other cities in the South. He made other brief trips out of Washington during that year and in the early part of 1898, but during the progress of the Spanish War, he was unable to leave the seat of government for a long time.

But as soon as hostilities were over and the treaty of peace signed, he took up his tours of the country again.

The immediate trips after the close of the war were diplomatically used by the President to ascertain the true sentiment of the people toward the Philippines question.

In his speech at the auditorium in Atlantic on December 15th, 1898, speaking of the war and its results and in regard to the flag, he said: "That flag has been planted in two hemispheres, and there it remains the symbol of liberty and law, of peace and progress. Who will withdraw from the people over whom it floats its potecting folds? Who will haul it down? Answer me, ye men of the South, who is there in Dixie who will haul it down?"

L. OF C.

It is said that the cheering and applause which followed was tremendous.

The most extended tour during his Presidency, of course, was his trip to the Pacific coast, in 1901, which terminated in the serious illness of Mrs. McKinley at San Francisco.

The declaration of love, veneration, and esteem for a President, was never more manifest in any tour before. He made many notable speeches and was received with the utmost cordiality.

More than forty trips out of Washington were made by President McKinley during the four and a half years of his incumbency as the Chief Executive of the Nation. Although he had traveled many thousands of miles prior to his elevation to the Presidency, yet it is said that he covered more territory in the four and a half years than in all the years preceding.

As this chapter deals with his speeches I am going to give a few extracts from some of his most important addresses.

From an address delivered at the dedication of the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' Monument at Cleveland, Ohio, 4th July, 1894, he said:

"The unity of the Republic is secure so long as we continue to honor the memory of the men who died by the tens of thousands to preserve it. The dissolution of the Union is impossible so long as we continue to inculcate lessons of fraternity, unity, and patriotism, and

erect monuments to perpetuate these sentiments.

"Such moments as these have another meaning which is one dear to the hearts of many who stand by me.

"It is, as Mr. Lincoln said at Gettysburg, that the dead shall not have died in vain; that the Nation's later birth of freedom and the peoples' gain of their own sovereignty shall not perish from the earth. That is what this monument means. That is the lesson of true patriotism; that which was won in war shall be won in peace.

"But we must not forget, my fellow countrymen, that the Union which these brave men preserved, and the liberties which they secured, places upon us, the living, the grandest responsibility. We are the freest government on the face of the earth. Our strength rests in our patriotism. Peace and order and security and liberty are safe so long as love of country burns in the hearts of the people. It shall not be forgotten, however, that liberty does not mean lawlessness. Liberty to make our own laws does not give us license to break them. Liberty to make our own laws commands a duty to observe them ourselves and enforce obedience among all others within their jurisdiction. Liberty, my fellow citizens, is responsibility, and responsibility is duty, and that duty is to preserve the exceptional libety we enjoy within

the law and for the law and by the law."

And in the House of Representatives on April 2nd, 1886, he had this to say on Arbitration:

"I believe, Mr. Chairman, in arbitration as in principle: I believe it should prevail in the settlement of international differences. It represents a higher civilization than the arbitrament of war. I believe it is in close accord with the best thought and sentiment of mankind; I believe it is the true way of settling differences between labor and capital; I believe it will bring both to a better understanding, uniting them closer in interest, and promoting better relations, avoiding force, avoiding unjust exactions and oppession, avoiding the loss of earnings to labor, avoiding disturbances to trade, and transportation, and if this House can contribute in the smallest measure, by legislative expression or otherwise, to these ends, it will deserve and receive the gratitude of all men who love peace, good order, justice and fair play."

At the eleventh annual banquet of the Home Market Club, of Boston, Mass., on the 18th of February, 1899, McKinley spoke on the future of the Philippines. In closing that speech he said:

"No imperial designs lurk in the American mind. They are alien to American sentiment, thought and purpose. Our prices as principles

undergo no change under a tropical sun. They go with the flag. They are wrought in every one of its sacred folds and are inextinguishable in its shining stars.

"'Why read ye not the changeless truth,
The free can conquer but to save.'

"If we can benefit these remote peoples, who will object? If in the years of the future they are established in government under law and liberty, who will regret our perils and sacifices? Who will not rejoice in our heroism and humanity?

"Always perils, and always after them safety; always darkness and clouds, but always shining through them the light and the sunshine; always cost and sacrifice, but always after them the fruition of liberty, education and civilization.

"I have no light or knowledge not common to my countrymen. I do not prophesy. The present is all-absorbing to me, but I cannot bound my vision by the bloodstained trenches around Manila, where every red drop, whether from the veins of an American soldier or a misguided Filipino, is anguish to my heart; but by the broad range of future years, when that group of islands, under the impulse of the year just passed, shall become the gems and glories of those tropical seas; a land of plenty and of

increasing possibilities; a people redeemed from savage indolence and habits, devoted to the arts of peace, in touch with the commerce and trade of all nations, enjoying the blessings of freedom, of civil and religious liberty, of education and of homes, and whose children and children's children shall for ages hence bless the American Republic because it emancipated and redeemed their fatherland and set them in the pathway of the world's best civilization."

And on April 21st, 1900, his missionary address at Carnegie Hall, New York City, is worth quoting:

"I am glad of the opportunity to offer without stint my tribute of praise and respect to the missionary effort which has wrought such wonderful triumphs for civilization.

"The story of the Christian missions is one of thrilling interest and marvelous results. The services and sacrifices of the missionaries for their fellowmen constitute one of the most glorious pages of the world's history. The missionary of whatever church or ecclesiastical body, who devotes his life to the service of the Master and of men, carrying the torch of truth and enlightenment, deserves the gratitude, the support and the homage of mankind.

"The noble, self-sacrificing, willing ministers of peace and good-will should be classed with the world's heroes. Wielding the sword

of the spirit, they have conquered ignorance and prejudice. They have been among the pioneers of civilization. They have illumined the darkness of idolatry and superstititon with the light of intelligence and trust. They have been messengers of righteousness and love. They have braved disease and danger and death, and in their exile have suffered unspeakable hardships; but their noble spirits have never wavered. They count their labor no sacrifice; 'away with the word in such a view and with such a thought!' says David Livingstone; 'it is emphatically no sacrifice; say, rather, it is a privilege.' They furnish us examples of forbearance, fortitude, of patience and unyielding purpose, and of spirit which triumphs not by force of might, but by the persuasive majesty of right. They are placing in the hands of their brothers less fortunate than themselves the keys which unlock the treasures of knowledge and open the mind to noble aspirations for better conditions.

"Education is one of the indispensable steps of mission enterprise, and in some form must precede all successful work. Who can estimate their value to the progress of nations? Their contribution to the onward and upward march of humanity is beyond all calculation. They have inculcated industry and taught the various trades. They have promoted concord and amity and have brought nations and races

closer together. They have made men better. They have increased the regard for home; have strengthened the sacred ties of family; have made the community well-ordered, and their work has been a potent influence in the development of law and the establishment of government. May this great meeting rekindle the spirit of missionary ardor and enthusiasm to go teach all nations, and may the field never lack a succession of heralds who shall carry on the task—the continuous proclamation of His gospel to the end of time."

It was a great convention of missionary workers. The evening meeting at which President McKinley made the above address was presided over by ex-President Benjamin Harrison. President Roosevelt, then Governor of the State of New York, also made an address. McKinley's address made a deep impression on the audience, and was heartily applauded.

McKinley's second inaugural address was considered one of the most inspiring, lucid and capable of his many State papers.

The part which brought forth the most applause and which the President himself was most eloquent at was the closing, when he said: "Our countrymen should not be deceived. We are now waging war against the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands. A portion of them are making war against the United States.

"By far the greater portion of the inhabi-

COPYRIGHT BY J. C. HEMMENT

PRESIDENT McKINLEY DELIVERING HIS FIRST INAUGURAL SPEECH

Reproduced by courtesy of Collier's Weekly.

tants recognize American sovereignty, and welcome it as a guaranty of order and of security for life, property, liberty, freedom of conscience and the pursuit of happiness. To them full protection will be given. They shall not be abandoned. We will not leave the destiny of the loyal millions in the islands to the disloyal thousands who are against the United States. Order under civil institutions will come as soon as those who now break the peace shall keep it. Force will not be needed or used when those who make war against us shall make it no more.

"May it end without further bloodshed, and there be ushered in the reign of peace to be made permanent by a government of liberty under law!"

President McKinley's last speech was his greatest. As he stood there, on the platform at the Pan-American Exposition, in the city of Buffalo, it was a supreme hour of a life which was in every way triumphant.

The closing words of that last public speech on earth outlined his national policy for the great nation which he was so soon to leave. The words of sentiment and patriotic aspiration were in accord with the nation's history, and it duly marked the culmination of his development and power in statesmanship.

"Let us ever remember that our interest is in concord, not conflict; and that our real em-

inence rests in the victories of peace, not those of war. We hope that all who are represented here may be moved to higher and nobler efforts for their own and the world's good, and that out of this city may come not only greater commerce and trade for us all, but more essential than these, relations of mutual respect, confidence and friendship which will deepen and endure.

"Our earnest prayer is that God will graciously vouchsafe prosperity, happiness and peace to all our neighbors, and like blessings to all the people and powers of earth."

Such was McKinley the orator. His public addresses not only showed an insight into governmental affairs which equalled few statesmen of his age, but they were sparkling word-gems, revealing alike his rhetorical brilliancy and his love for all humanity.

CHAPTER V.

A PRESIDENT AND HIS CABINET.

DURING the days intervening between a Presidential election and the inauguration, the man who has been exalted by his countrymen to the highest post of honor in the land is besieged by many persons, with all kinds of wants, and many other duties are required of him; but if he wishes the future administration to be a successful one, the question which most perplexes him and for which all his energy, tact and adroitness must be manifested, is the choice of his Cabinet.

That body of men constitutes the most important part of any administration. It is imperative that its choice should be so made that all sections of the country be represented. It is even more necessary that the gentlemen chosen should be not only men of high rank as statesmen, but that they be eminently fitted for the respective departments for which they are selected. It is, indeed, a most difficult task and one not to be envied. All of our Presidents have taken great care in the selection of their cabinets.

It is said that when President McKinley was inaugurated John Hay was his first choice for the office of Secretary of State, but circumstances, however, required another appointment. It fell to the Hon. John Sherman, ex-Secretary of the Treasury in General Harrison's Cabinet, and at the time United States Senator from Ohio. Mr. Sherman was a statesman of high rank, a man whose views were sought; one who was a loyal Republican and an upright and honest citizen. But Mr. Sherman, when he took up the cares of the office, was by no means a young man, and its responsibilities weighed on him, and ere long he was compelled to relinquish the office and retire to private life. The President's bosom friend and his neighbor in Canton, the Hon. William R. Day, then Assistant Secretary of State, succeeded him. Judge Day was and is a modest, unassuming gentleman, but he is a man of profound judgment and of vast capabilities. A man who had rendered excellent service as Assistant Secretary of State and was well qualified to be elevated to the premiership.

Just here it might be of interest to quote an incident told by Charles Emory Smith, illustrating the President's sense of humor.

Says Mr. Smith:

"In the higher and gayer humor he had a deft touch. Judge Day, after his splendid ser-

THE WAR CABINET.

Reproduced by courtesy of Collier's Weekly.

vice as Assistant Secretary and Secretary of State, had been appointed President of the Peace Commission that was about to leave for Paris, and was attending his last Cabinet session.

"For eighteen months he had really managed the State Department under trying conditions with signal skill and judgment. He had been the lifelong friend and neighbor of the President, who knew his great capabilities, and had called him from his vicinage to high responsibilities.

"In that closing hour of his Cabinet service there were mutual expressions of good-will and of regret at the coming separation. Judge Day was not without his facetious vein. In a playful spirit he proffered his sympathies to his associates, who were about to lose his counsel, and, the most modest of men as he was and is, remarked that he didn't know how they were going to get along without him. 'Well,' said the President, with that most serious aspect which he put on when he was most in fun, 'as every change in the Cabinet had been an improvement, perhaps we can stand it.'

"The tables were turned on Judge Day, and no one joined in the laugh more heartily than he did. The two devoted and admiring friends could safely chaff each other."

Upon Judge Day's departure from the Cabinet, and after Colonel John Hay had served

eighteen months as Ambassador to the Court of St. James, he was recalled and placed at the head of the State portfolio. Of all Secretaries of State, perhaps in John Hay was combined the genius of the diplomat and the statesman to a greater degree than any of his predecessors with the exception of Webster and Blaine.

On one occasion an Ambassador of a European power, when asked to name the Minister for Foreign Affairs who administered his office with the greatest ability, replied, without a moment's hesitation, "I should say Mr. John Hay, your Secretary of State."

At the time of Mr. McKinley's election the country was at large more interested and anxious as to the appointment of Secretary of the Treasury than any other. The condition of the national resources were such that the selection of this appointment was far from an easy one, and yet with that skill of his judgment of men, which was one of his most striking characteristics, the President soon solved the difficult problem. He was anxious to find a man with broad and catholic views, who was well versed in business affairs as well as familiar with financial questions; a man of strong ideas and who had the courage of his convictions; a man who did not represent any particular section of the country, who had no prejudices, and whose one ambition or aim was to serve the whole country, irrespective of party; a man of

culture, high and lofty integrity and of intellectual powers of the first order.

To find a man with those qualifications was no easy matter; yet all these requirements were met in the Chicago banker, the Hon. Lyman J. Gage.

Mr. Gage made a most admirable official, and he will go down in history alongside our greatest Secretary of the Treasury.

The next thing in order is the Secretary of War. When Mr. McKinley made this choice, he little thought that part of his administration would be taken up with the problems of war.

This department was intrusted to Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, a man of fine personality and winsome manner; a true and loyal friend, and a man fully capable of the arduous duties of the office.

Like Lincoln, President McKinley was a student of men. No man during his generation so well knew the lives of the public men as he did. He could intuitively perceive the latent genius of a man long before others, and if he were convinced in his own mind that the man was all right no power on earth could change his conviction for a moment. This was admirably shown in the case of his Secretary of War. At a time when all the country was crying for the dismissal of that officer the President remained firm, and would not yield to the pressure. Even the Secreary himself

besought the President to allow him to resign to protect the party; but no, the President was satisfied, and he would not consider the proposition under any circumstances.

On August 1, 1899, after the close of the war, Secretary Alger did resign, and was replaced by Mr. Elihu Root, of New York City.

At first this appointment did not meet with entire approval. "Who is this Root?" was the question asked. "What has he done?" etc. But the President again knew his man, and a few months after the President's selection was applauded by all, and it is now conceded that Elihu Root, at present our Secretary of State, made one of the most efficient of Secretaries that the War Department has had in years.

As to the Attorney-Generalship, McKinley gave the place to Joseph McKenna, of California. He was a lawyer of marked ability. He was admitted to the bar in 1865. He was twice elected District-Attorney for Solano County, then served two terms in the lower house of the Legislature of his State, then four terms in Congress, resigning from the latter body to accept the position of United States Circuit Judge, to which he was appointed by President Harrison in 1893. That was his record when President McKinley tendered him the Attorney-Generalship in his Cabinet. On January 26th, 1898, he retired from the Cabinet to accept at the hands of his Chief a seat on the

Supreme Court bench. He in turn was succeeded by John W. Griggs, of New Jersey, who resigned the Governorship of that State to enter the Cabinet. After a little more than three years of excellent service in the Cabinet business interests made it imperative that he should resign, so on April 9th, 1901, Mr. Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, was sworn into office as Attorney-General. He retained the post until after President McKinley's death.

James A. Gary, of Indiana, was made Postmaster-General. He was a gentleman of fine qualities, and possessed a keen mind. He was succeeded in 1898 by the Hon. Charles Emory Smith, of Philadelphia. This appointment at once gave universal satisfaction. Mr. Smith had a wide acquaintance with public men and affairs, was a personal friend of the President's, having stumped the State of Ohio with Mr. McKinley when the latter ran for Governor of that State. In 1898 President Harrison appointed Mr. Smith Minister to Russia, which office he resigned after having served two years. While he was in that country he was extremely active in the relief work of the great famine in 1891 and 1892, and had sole charge of contributions that came from America of over $100,000 in money and several shiploads of goods.

Mr. Smith is a most genial and courteous

man to meet. He possesses many of the qualities of his Chief. He made a most popular Postmaster-General, and was invariably consulted on many questions of great importance which did not relate to his department. His vast experience as a teacher, editor, diplomat and man of affairs entitled him to rank as one of our best known public men.

The Secretaryship of the Navy was allotted to the ex-Congressman and ex-Governor of Massachusetts, the Hon. John D. Long.

This appointment proved to be one of McKinley's best. Mr. Long conducted the affairs of our Navy Department during a most trying time. Through his labors the service was brought up to a standard of efficiency second to none in the world. No man had better right to feel proud of his work when he laid down the cares of office than John D. Long. He served throughout President McKinley's entire term of office.

President McKinley appointed as his Secretary of the Interior the Hon. Cornelius N. Bliss, of New York. Mr. Bliss was a thorough business man, and well fitted for the head of the Interior Department. On February 20th, 1899, he was succeeded by Ethan Allen Hitchcock, of Missouri, another man of wide business interests, and one who had discharged the duties of his office in a most satisfactory manner.

And for Secretary of Agriculture the Hon. James Wilson, of Iowa, was selected, a man who had been engaged in practical farming; who had been in the State Legislature as well as the national House of Representatives. For six years prior to his elevation in President McKinley's Cabinet he was director of the Agricultural Experiment Station and professor of agriculture at the Iowa Agricultural College at Ames. This brief biographical sketch will show that the choice of Mr. Wilson to head the Agricultural Department was a good one. It is a singular coincidence that Mr. Wilson is still retained in the Cabinet by President Roosevelt, and that the men who entered with him have either passed away or resigned.

The wisdom of his appointment was revealed in the fact that President Roosevelt still wishes him to remain at his council board.

When one scans the names of men whom President McKinley appointed to his Cabinet table he will see that those selected were men of brains and of eminence in their respective lines. When everything is taken into consideration, no President had a better or more efficient Cabinet than he. It has been said by one of the President's closest friends that "there was not a detail or a situation in any branch of the government with which he came in contact that he did not fully fathom and master."

The President was an attentive listener and

an earnest seeker after the truth of any subject. He had strong opinions of his own, but his course at the Cabinet meetings would be to seek his advisors' opinions first, so that he could ascertain their individual feelings before expressing his own.

His Postmaster-General, Charles E. Smith, has given us a near view of McKinley in regard to his manner at Cabinet meetings when he says that McKinley "at the Cabinet table was suggestive, fertile and wise. Sometimes he led discussion, quite as often he first elicited the views of his counselors. He recognized and treated his Cabinet as advisers in the fullest sense of the word, not as mere recorders and executives of his will. He sought and respected their independent judgment. It was quite his habit with them, as with others, to draw out their opinion before he had indicated his own, so that he secured their unbiased expression. He was receptive and responsive, but not pliant. He acorded full weight to all that was said, but he formed his own convictions. No man was more judicial and sane in summing varied views and deducing the wisest conclusion. His pre-eminence in the council was unchallenged."

Although eminent counselors may surround a President at his Cabinet table, men in some lines perhaps greater than the President himself; that is, finer statesmen, men better skilled

in public affairs, or perhaps as lawyers whose minds were keener or more adroit than their Chief, or statesmen whose greatness is innate. Yet the President, and he alone, is responsible for the success or failure of the administration. The public always looks and expects the President to guide and direct the destiny of the nation while he is at the head of government.

President McKinley well understood the importance of his position, and he was not weighed down by its cares; on the contrary, the more he had to do the kinder would be his manner and the more gracious his attitude. As Lincoln was the dominating spirit in his Cabinet, so was McKinley the magnetic leader and gallant defender of American interests in his Cabinet.

He always espoused the cause wherein he believed his duty lay, and I do not hesitate to express the opinion as a deliberate judgment that his sole purpose in life was to do the thing that was right as it was given him to see the right. Political ambition which he possessed never sprang from selfish motives, but his life-long aim was the best good of his country and of all humanity.

On one occasion he remarked to his friend, Senator Hanna: "There are some things, Mark, I would not do and cannot do, even to become President of the United States."

The question whether the Philippines should

be kept or allowed to pass from our jurisdiction was one of the most perplexing problems on which the President and his Cabinet had to meet. I will again quote from Charles Emory Smith, who has written very clearly and vividly on this matter. He says:

"When did President McKinley decide to keep the whole Philippine archipelago? Was this his original determination, or did he grow up to it with the progress of events and the development of discussion? What were the controlling considerations which influenced his final judgment? What was his own personal feeling? These questions are often asked, and the answer is full of historic interest and personal illumination.

"The protocol, which was signed August 12th, 1898, left the future of the Philippines open and undetermined. The language was chosen with deliberation and care. The fifth stipulation provided for the ocupation by the United States of the city and harbor of Manila pending the conclusion of a treaty of peace which should determine the control, disposition and government of the Philippines. Every word was studied and weighed. To leave the 'control' and 'disposition' of the Philippines for the final determination of the treaty was to leave their fate unsettled till then. This was done advisedly.

"The President had not at that time reached

a definite conclusion, and he deemed it prudent to reserve freedom of action. Three lines of action were possible. The first was the establishment simply of a naval and military station. The second was the retention of the single island of Luzon. The third was the acquisition of the whole archipelago. No one proposed to abandon the opportunity we had gained in the Philippines without at least reserving a base for naval necessities. There were a few who suggested some such location as the Subig Bay, where a new American establishment could be created, and deprecated the absorption of any old town with its population and connections; but they were very limited in number. It was generally recognized that, as we were in full possession of the city and bay of Manila, that foothold should at least be held.

"With what justification, indeed, could it be turned back to the domination and oppression of Spain? If the United States withdrew from Manila, Spanish authority must be reasserted. There was no other. That would mean not only the characteristics of Spanish rule, but the reopening of revolt and war.

"The knowledge of that inevitable consequence brought a general perception and acknowledgment that nothing less than the retention of Manila was admissible. But when so much was granted, it immediately faced an-

other question. How could Manila be wisely separated from the island of which it was the heart and life? How could London be politically and commercially dissevered from England? or Brooklyn from Long Island? Must not the city have its hinterland? Must not the country have its outlet? Was not the connection of so close a character that the interests of both demanded that they should be together?

"That argument led to the conclusion that the United States must take Luzon. But between the adoption of Luzon and that of the whole archipelago there was apparently a margin for difference of opinion. Necessity seemed to compel the first, but moderation prompted that the demand should be bounded by those limits, if the line could be logically drawn. Accordingly, in the general letter of instructions with which the President sent the Peace Commissioners on their momentous errand, he said that the United States cannot accept less than the cession of Luzon. Whether more should be taken was left for developments.

"Nearly six weeks intervened from the first instruction before the final issue of the Philippines was reached. It was a time of investigation, reflection and discussion. A majority of the Peace Commissioners in Paris came to the decided conviction that it would be a naval, po-

litical and commercial mistake to divide the archipelago, and made a strong representation to the President to that effect. The information which came to him from the officers in command pointed to the same conclusion. The more the question was studied the greater appeared the difficulties of division and the more imperative the reasons for limiting the choice to the whole of the archipelago or none.

"The group is naturally a geographical and political unit. The islands are close together, and for the most part interdependent. Manila is the commercial centre of all. It would be as easy to hold the whole as a part. If we took Luzon and turned the other islands back to Spain they would immediately flame with revolt against which Spain would be impotent, and we should be compelled, in self-protection and on grounds of humanity, to intervene. It was morally certain, moreover, that if the title were left with Spain she would sell and transfer her islands to another and stronger European nation, and we should be confronted with a powerful rival side by side in the same group dividing authority and responsibility. The dangers of such a divided control among a people naturally related were manifest and inadmissible.

"These considerations finally decided the President to require the cession of the whole archipelago. When he reached that conclu-

sion he was clear and unwavering. There were critical moments in the negotiations at Paris—moments when even our Commissioners feared that the conference would break up and the treaty fail. The tension of those hours was extreme, and was calculated to make even the strongest men quiver and ask themselves whether some concession should not be sought. But again, as in the crisis of the Santiago campaign, the President was firm and unfaltering. He was willing that a reasonable pecuniary allowance should be made for any fair claim that compromised no principle; but once convinced that safety required our control of the whole of the Philippines, he held fast to that ground.

"There can be no doubt that he came to this view with great reluctance. It was against his personal feeling and predisposition. He had no ambition, so far as his frankest talk in the innermost circle of friendship revealed, for more territorial acquisition.

* * * * * *

"Besides his freedom from territorial greed, he saw that the acquisition of the Philippines would open difficult and perplexing problems. He thus approached it with real hesitation, and if he could have seen a way of avoiding it compatible with honor and duty, he would have been glad to do so. He knew that popular sentiment was for expansion over the Philippines. This became plain during his Western

tour while the issue was unsettled. It has some times been said, indeed, that he made that journey among the people to ascertain their feeling, and that their demonstration determined his course. What is much nearer the truth is that he led public sentiment quite as much as public sentiment led him, and the popular manifesations on that journey were in response to the keynotes he struck.

"He realized the vital importance of popular support, especially in a new departure on a great national experiment.

"Coming to the conclusion that it was a necessity, he touched the popular chords, and was undoubtedly encouraged and strengthened in his course by the public approval. But it is equally true that a popular sentiment in favor of holding the Philippines would not have carried him for that policy unless he had felt it to be a duty. Thoroughly man of the people as he was, few men were less swayed by mere momentary and ephemeral currents. He could look beyond the fleeting and superficial impulses of the hour to the calm judgment of the future. And thus his conclusion to hold the Philippines was not moulded by popular opinion, but was his final conviction as a statesman and rather against his personal prepossessions."

There was never a more fearless man than William McKinley after he had proven in his

own mind that his course was right; but even so, he would give the public a chance to be heard even after his mind had been made up. It was just this phase of his character that was so much misunderstood. He was not blunt in his manner, but he was none the less strong and fearless because he was gentle in his dealings with men. Just here I desire to quote from an address delivered by President Schurman, of Cornell University, at Ithaca, N. Y. He says: "Strong as he was, and firm to the point of obstinacy, yet he was so deferential to the judgment of others, so willing to listen to everybody, so truly democratic in his search for truth and wisdom, that his very lack of dogmatic self-conceit and even the deliberateness of his method were at first construed as signs of weakness, and in the early days of his Presidency it was not uncommon criticism that he had no mind of his own."

"Never was there a greater mistake, as the men who came closest to him will universally testify. His Cabinet was made up of strong men, but the President dominated the Cabinet. He saw everybody, heard everybody, but followed nobody.

"Yet, somehow, he was the leader of all, and all fell into line and marched behind or beside him. He acquainted himself with all the facts of a given case, listened to all manner of advice from those who might be supposed to

know all about it, even suffering fools gladly, and then reached a decision or adopted a policy of his own, which, being well considered, was sure to command general assent. It was his own views, yet it was the quintessence of the public mind. He was the greatest inductive philosopher who ever experimented with American politics, and it did not take the American people long to discover his method, or to show their appreciation of it. Even before his re-election, the talk that he lacked independence of judgment had entirely ceased. I have dwelt on this point because it is here that McKinley suffered most injustice at the hands of his critics."

On the great public questions the President would be more deliberate, more cautious in the way in which he arrived at his conclusions. He used to say, to quote again from Mr. Smith, "that when all the members who comprised his Cabinet had reached a conclusion on any subject, it was most generally sure to be the right conclusion."

As has already been stated, Mr. McKinley was unusually careful in the selection of appointments. He took the greatest pains to avail himself of the right man for the right place.

On one occasion a gentleman who had received an important appointment came hurryingly to the White House to explain to the

President that he did not agree on some of the President's policies, and said that he no doubt would want to appoint another man who thought as the President did. "You are just the man I want," replied the President. It did not matter with him whether the man was for or against the policies of the administration. He was only looking for the best man for the place.

In speaking of the President's appointments, Mr. Charles E. Smith says: "The great body of appointments are not brought before the Cabinet, but are considered and determined between the President and the particular member in charge. But the important appointments of a really national character are often the subject of general conference and careful discussion by the whole Cabinet. President McKinley, who had an unusually large number of such selections to make, like the Paris Peace Commission, deliberately canvassed every name with all his advisers. And it is worthy of note how little, when they are thus treated, mere political or personal considerations weigh and how the single question of fitness becomes decisive."

There were strong minds in President McKinley's Cabinet—minds that were different from the President's, and minds that would naturally reach different conclusions—but there

was not that divided sentiment which characterized the Cabinet of Mr. Lincoln.

McKinley's Cabinet always respected the President's judgment, while at first Mr. Lincoln's advisers were unmindful of Lincoln's logical perceptions and moral leadership, although they soon realized that his rugged and uncouth exterior was only the outward mantle, and within there existed a mentality equalled by none of his day and generation.

We learn from the records now that President McKinley's Cabinet was divided just prior to the Spanish-American War; that some of its members sympathized with the war party, while the others were opposed to the war. And says Mr. Smith: "The President's policy in that crisis was his own, guided, first of all, by his own strong convictions, and then moulded by events which controlled him. Again, at a crucial point, he had to decide whether the Philippines should be retained or not. With some division at first, his Cabinet came to concur in his conclusion; but in such a transcendent issue he knew that conscience and history would hold him to his own personal responsibility, and however much he may have felt strengthened by the concurrence of his advisers, he had in the last resort to rely on his own independent insight and judgment."

William McKinley was by far a greater and

wiser man than some of his critics will admit. It is not claimed that he was a second Webster or Clay or Calhoun, but it is maintained that he was a statesman and political leader of high rank.

The popular appreciation of his career was at first slow in its growth, but after he became President his countrymen and the world looked upon him with more favor and with less reluctance. His commanding influence and power over the people's minds and hearts grew steadily day by day; from the hour he took the oath of office as President until the assassin's bullet ended his noble and beloved career.

In closing this chapter let us consider for a moment one of the President's most predominating characteristics. It was patience; never has an Executive showed it in a more marked way than William McKinley.

He carried this virtue with him wherever he went, and it was his up to the day he received his "crown of martyrdom." Says a friend: "If you ask the hundred of notable men who were frequent and solicitous visitors at the official mansion what quality of his character was the most remarkable in a man of his many cares and anxieties, the large majority will answer patience—an indomitable, unvarying patience."

"In all the various demands for the exercise of his many constitutional powers, in the pres-

ence of conflicting interests and urgent representations, he preserved his serenity of manner and gave a patient audience outside his own official household. Only members of the Cabinet had the right of immediate admission to the audience chamber. Waiting Representatives, Senators and others in official and private life must await their turn. The waiting numbers were often so large that impatience and nervous irritation seized them in the long delay, and when they were summoned they entered in a mood far from amiable. But when the President turned to them with his kindly face and tranquil manner, as if he had no burdens on his mind, and no other duty than to listen to his visitor, there was such a soothing charm in his bearing that all this irritability disappeared as by magic.

"On one occasion, when a certain line of Executive action was supposed to affect injuriously the interests of some constituents of a certain Senator, the latter entered the room of audience with denunciatory remonstrances on his lips, and swelling with inward excitement. The President listened to his extravagant words, and advancing a step put a hand on his shoulder, and said, in a tone that a gentle nurse might use to a fretful invalid: "Oh, no, no; not so bad as that; not so bad as that!" And soon reason resumed its throne. Far beyond any precedent this last administration had fur-

nished a volume of proof that "a soft answer turns away wrath."

All who perchance came within his presence admired him at first sight. His Cabinet ministers, when speaking of him to-day, refer to him with loving recollections. Let it be said that no man in the history of America was so universally beloved as William McKinley. His whole life is a theme of inspiration to the youth of our land. And God grant that they may take pattern after him.

CHAPTER VI.

McKINLEY IN THE HOME AND AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

THE home—which has been called the most imposing and magnificent temple of civilization, is the very essence of the foundation of the Republic. When all the achievements and aims of man have crumbled into dust, the purity and the example of the home will be more renowned, more significant, and more far-reaching in its mission than any other power in the annals of the world. The moral and material teaching of the home appeals to the reason of man; and wields his good judgment and determining powers for the right more than any other force that can be exerted. It has been said that "the nationalism of the world rests upon the hearthstone."

There is nothing on earth sweeter or dearer than an ideal home. "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home." We know not what rank McKinley may be accorded in history. Time alone shall determine. But there is one thing certain, with which all must agree, that his home life and his unselfish devotion

to his wife stood out perhaps pre-eminently among his other characteristics, and were worthy of the emulation of all.

McKniley's devotion to his wife was so tender, so true, so sincere, that the story of it will be told for years to come. Amid the deep cares of public life, amid the strenuous activity of daily duties; in the thick of his personal duties and achievements, and they were many, he never relaxed his tender care, his sympathy and his untiring thought for her comfort and happiness.

Senator Hanna once said, in regard to McKinley's home life, "an ideal home-body was William McKinley, and the American fireside was a shrine of worship with him."

At his fireside, with his wife and children about him, the man is seen at his best. He is no longer the active centre of affairs; he unbends from the dignified demeanor which is characteristic of men in their relations with men, and he is the devoted husband, the kind and affectionate father. Such was William McKinley.

After Major McKinley returned from the war and moved to Canton, the acquaintance with Miss Ida Saxton, whom he had corresponded with while in the army and met on a former visit to Canton before the war, ripened into love. She was the belle of that city, and her father was a prominent banker and a man

THE HOME OF WILLIAM McKINLEY, CANTON, OHIO

Reproduced by courtesy of Collier's Weekly.

of considerable literary ability, being editor of the Canton *Repository*, which is still in existence.

Miss Saxton was thoroughly educated, having graduated from the Brook Hall Seminary at Media, Pa. Her father sent her abroad with her younger sister, so as to enable her to receive a broader view of life. Upon her return from the foreign tour she entered her father's bank as cashier.

Although Mr. Saxton was a man of considerable wealth, he had a theory that young girls should be taught a business that would make them independent, and enable them to support themselves if necessary.

It has been said that the courtship of Major McKinley was very unique. He was a Methodist Sunday-school teacher and Miss Saxton a Bible class teacher in a Presbyterian church. On a street corner each Sunday they met to chat about their work. This continued for some time. One afternoon he said to her: "This separation each Sunday I don't like at all—your going one way and I another. Suppose after this we always go the same way. What do you think?"

"I think so, too," was her quick reply.

Mr. Saxton had hoped that his daughter would not soon fall in love, for he wanted her to remain at home to brighten his declining years, but he said "that Major McKinley was

the only man he was willing that she should marry." Many incidents of their devotion during their courtship have been told by old friends.

The wedding took place in the New First Presbyterian Church, which was hurried to completion for the Saxton-McKinley wedding, on January 25th, 1871.

A fac-simile of the wedding invitation follows:

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Saxton
will be pleased to have you present
at the marriage of their daughter
Ida
to
William McKinley, Jr.,
Wednesday evening, January 25th, 1871, *at*
7½ o'clock.
First Presbyterian Church,
Canton, Ohio.

Major McKinley's brother Abner was best man, and Miss Saxton's sister was maid of honor. The bride and groom went East on their wedding tour, stopping at Washington on their return home.

Two little girls were born to them—Kate, on Christmas Day, 1871, and Ida, April 1st, 1873. The latter died in babyhood, and Kate died when she was three years and six months old, both keenly mourned.

Mrs. McKinley was naturally a strong young woman, but the cares of motherhood and the death of her mother, with those of her little ones, brought on an illness from which she has never completely recovered, although she is ever patient, kind and good to everybody. She tried to be always cheerful for her husband's sake, and he to be happy and cheerful for her sake. What a beautiful picture of wedded life!

It is said that while on his way to the inauguration at Washington, the comfort of his wife during the journey was more to him than all the honors of the people who met and cheered him at every railroad station. To him she was as precious as the most costly jewel that ever a monarch boasted.

He would always appeal to her. In the evening, when they were sitting alone in the Red Room at the White House, she with her knitting and he reading to her, and a card

would be brought in, the President would say, "Ida, shall we see them?"

When Major McKinley was in Congress he would work at the Capitol all day, and when closing hours came would return to his hotel, the Ebbitt House in Washington, and draw a chair beside Mrs. McKinley's, and relate to her what had gone on during the day. When dinner was announced, they would regularly proceed together to the dining-room. This was told by an eye-witness, who said that it was repeated day after day. It has been said by those who knew them well that they were "a pair of old-fashioned lovers from first to last."

A story is told of how one day an autograph album was laid before the President for his signature. Many of these albums came to the President daily, and he was supposed to place his name on the first page. In this particular case, it is said, the President noticed the picture of a flower on every page, and just beneath each picture was a verse. He turned over the pages until he came to the one which had a pansy on it. The pansy is Mrs. McKinley's favorite flower, and on this page read the sentiment:

"You cannot guess the power
Of a little simple flower."

KATIE McKINLEY, THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER, WHO DIED AT THE AGE OF THREE AND A HALF

Reproduced by courtesy of Collier's Weekly.

The President took up his pen and wrote beneath the verse "William McKinley," and sent the album back to its owner.

While Governor of Ohio McKinley had rooms in the Chittenden House, in Columbus, directly opposite the State House. He always left the hotel by a side entrance to avoid notice, and cross the street, after which he would lift his hat, and a handkerchief would flutter from his window at the hotel. This was repeated every evening as well.

On Sunday the Governor would take the train to Canton and accompany his mother to the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

Although McKinley had no training, he nevertheless loved music. It is said that "anything from a hurdy-gurdy to a grand opera would please him; he would keep time with his hands and enjoy every bit of it."

Senator Hanna wrote of McKinley's generosity in these words: "A man of more generous impulses than McKinley never lived. When cases were presented to him for relief that were beyond his ability to meet he would apply to me or some of his friends for some assistance in aiding worthy persons, and his friends were always glad to respond to these appeals. He was liberal without stint. It gave him actual physical pain to see any one suffering or in distress, and on such occasions showed his great faith in friendship, never hes-

itating to go to any bounds in an appeal for others."

A story is told that he was traveling on one occasion when a man approached him and a wealthy friend sitting by his side for money for a worthy cause. McKinley pulled out from his pocket a fifty-dollar bill and a five; he gave the fifty-dollar bill to the man, and placed back in his pocket the five, while the millionaire gave a ten-dollar bill.

An act which occurred during his last and tragic visit to Buffalo will illustrate the simple manner and graciousness of the man. On the day before the assassination the President started out of the Milburn House for an early morning stroll; the weather was very bright and beautiful. As he turned out from Delaware Avenue into a side street he stopped in front of a house where a laborer was cutting the grass with a lawn mower. He engaged the man in conversation. The President asked him the cost and workmanship of the different kinds of mowers and other little details of the man's calling. While he stood there talking a street sweeper came along, and he, too, was stopped by the President and drawn into the conversation, all of which had reference to the work in which the men were engaged. Just as he was about to leave he put his hand into his pocket, and, pulling out two one-dollar bills, presented one to each of the men, asking

them to accept them as a token of the good-will of the President of the United States.

This little deed of kindness and pathos was the last that President McKinley did in his capacity as a private citizen. The two men were much touched when they related this simple story of the great and kind-hearted man who was so soon to go home to his reward.

Even the little children loved him. It is related of a little boy that on the night before Mr. McKinley died he said to his mother: "You needn't wake me, mama, if President McKinley dies. I don't want to see any 'Extras,' for I never loved any other President half so well as I love him." The newsboys loved him, for they knew he was their friend. When he met them on the street he would almost always stop and buy papers from them.

Another of those acts of his illustrating the kindly and gracious side of his nature, that never could be concealed, occurred on the fateful day when he made the rounds of the Exposition Buildings at Buffalo. While passing one of the booths in the Agricultural Building the young lady in charge, Miss Antoinette Witt, attracted his attention. He stopped, shook her hand, spoke with his charming smile a few words of well-wishing, and presented to her a rich bouquet of American Beauties, which had been given him shortly before. Then he passed rapidly on, but the young lady was the hero of

the day, and cherishes the recollection fondly.

Another incident occurred on the day of his funeral which is so pathetic and so beautiful a picture that it cannot be too often told.

It was that incident of the little girl of unknown name who on the day when the remains of William McKinley were laid at rest in Canton was found just at dusk at the entrance gate of the cemetery in Atlanta, Ga. She had been waiting there for some time, for in her hands were tightly clutched a bunch of wilted wild flowers. She had heard that her beloved President, whom all loved, was to be buried that afternoon, and she had come to the only burial place of which she knew to place on his bier a tender token of her love and esteem.

As Antony said of Brutus, so of him: "His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'This is a man!' "

Nothing would delight the President better after the hours of work than to have a number of his close friends to dinner. After dinner he and his friends would talk into the early hours of the morning. McKinley loved a good joke, and when he laughed he would laugh heartily all over. It is said that he was a perfect boy in his capacity for merriment.

He liked to go to the theatre, and would always avail himself of the opportunity if there was a good play on. His favorite dramas

were "Rip Van Winkle" and the "Cricket on the Hearth." He enjoyed meeting all the prominent actors, and was especially fond of Mr. Joseph Jefferson. The noted actors would always call at the White House when in Washington. McKinley also enjoyed Shakespearean plays. He said he received a great deal of good from a good play, and to attend the theatre was a relaxation from his public cares.

President McKinley was not what is called an athlete. He enjoyed recreation, however, being a good walker, and taking daily drives with Mrs. McKinley. He had no taste for fishing or hunting in after-life, although he engaged in these sports when a boy. He enjoyed the saddle and was a good rider, and often would he be seen on the outskirts of Washington on horseback, accompanied by a member of his Cabinet.

He was not a brilliant man like Webster, nor had he the rugged strength or humor of Lincoln; but it is said that "he rarely spoke an idle or foolish word." He did not show any real native wit; he left us no real anecdotes such as Lincoln, but he has left behind him the record of a great career, a career which will shine with more lustre as time advances. William McKinley was a man, he was human like the rest of mankind, and he made mistakes like every one. His judgment was not infallible, but he was a man possessed of more

than the average of patience, of goodness, of fortitude and of fidelity to duty. He believed that life was all too short to treasure up any animosities toward his fellow-men. He believed in the martyred words, "With malice toward none, with charity for all."

Sensitive to criticism, yet no one overheard him speak unkindly about any one. He never consciously wronged a fellow-being. He would turn from the cares of State to give a flower to a little child or to say a kindly word to some visitor for whom he could do no more. His beginning was that of the average American boy, and he won every step of his noble and brilliant career because he was a true, patriotic, kind and courageous man. No matter what came up in his official duties, he always remained true to his character and convictions as a Christian gentleman. He was so upright in nature, so tolerant in temper, so grand in bearing and so kind and considerate of others, that he proved by his acts and words that "the bravest are the tenderest, the loving are the daring." In regard to this side of his character, Mark Hanna has written of his friend:

"He seems to have met every emergency and the unusual problems and annoying complications of the times in a masterful way. These conditions furnished the opportunity for him to demonstrate his enormous talent and ability

for successfully solving every problem, rising to the full measure of every situation and overcoming all obstacles." And he goes on to say that: "In all those thirty years of close relations I never heard him utter one word of what I would call resentment, tinged with bitterness, toward any living person." This was again reflected in the story of the assassination told by Mr. Milburn, who said that he could "never forget the picture in the expression of his countenance as he glanced toward the dastard assassin. In his eyes read the words as plain as language could express it, 'Why should you do this?' And then, when the assassin was hurled to the ground when the fury and indignation of the people had begun to assert itself, he said, with almost saintly compassion, 'Don't let them hurt him.' I know of nothing in all history that can compare with the splendid climax and enduring of this noble life."

William McKinley consecrated his whole career to his country and his fellow-men. He often said that he got more out of people by meeting them than they got out of him. McKinley was very proud of the bronze button of the G. A. R.

Edward Stratemeyer, in his "Boy's Life of McKinley," relates the following story: "One day an old Grand Army man presented himself at the door of the White House and

asked to see the President. The doorkeeper said, He cannot receive you, sir; he has called a Cabinet meeting for 10 o'clock, and it is now five minutes of ten.' 'But he told me I could come and see him,' responded the old soldier. 'When did he tell you?' 'About six months ago, when he was in our town in Ohio.' 'Oh, well, you had better come in when he receives visitors.' 'I can't come in then,' said the man, with tears in his eyes. 'I'm going back home this afternoon. Can't you please take in my name to him?' After some hesitation, the old soldier's name was taken in to the President, who was busy with some important public document. After waiting in the hallway for a moment or two the old veteran saw the President coming toward him with outstretched hands. 'I am glad to see you, Sergeant,' he said, calling him by name. 'Come in and tell me how you have been.' He led him into a side apartment, where they could talk without interruption. Here the soldier was offered a chair and a cigar, and the President asked him all about his family, his brother who had gone to California, and a number of other personal affairs. He spent some time with him. After the old veteran had left the White House he said: 'e's a gentleman, every inch of him,' and in speaking of his visit later to his friends he said: 'I thought the interview was going to be downright straight-laced; but I soon got

McKINLEY ON THE FAMOUS FRONT PORCH.

Courtesy of Roller Pub. Co., Canton, Ohio.

that knocked out of me. He talked to me like a brother, and he hasn't forgotten a one of us, even if he is President. He talked to me almost half an hour, and if that Cabinet got together it had to wait, that's all.' "

Those who knew the White House best in its relation to the public during the incumbency of different Presidents have told many incidents concerning their chiefs, but for McKinley they have nothing to relate except kindly acts and genial ways in his dealings with the public.

It is said that he left a Cabinet meeting to receive the secretary of the Anti-Imperialist League when that gentleman visited Washington for the first time. It was a very unusual courtesy.

There is another story which has been related by Mr. Stratemeyer, of the old colored woman who had moved to Washington from Ohio, just before McKinley became President. Her husband had died, and her son, who was then out of a position, was the only person whom she depended upon for support. Soon after McKinley became President she resolved to call on him and see if she could not have her son given a government position.

After many attempts to gain admission, for no one knew exactly what she wanted as she could not make herself understood, she went and joined the long line on visitor's day and

stood for nearly an hour waiting for her turn to meet the President of the United States. So nervous was she that when she actually stood in front of McKinley she could hardly raise her hand to greet him, much less say what she wanted. In speaking of the occasion afterwards she remarked: "I dun stood dar jest like a fool. He seemed to be sech a big man, I couldn't say nuffin, nohow. He looked at me cu'rus like, an' all to once he says: 'Ain't dis Mammy Tucker?' Den I most gasp fo' bref, an' I says: 'Yes, dis is Mammy Tucker, Mister President,' an' he give my hand a hot squeeze an' says 'Glad to see you, Mrs. Tucker. I hope you are well!' Dat flustered me mightily, but I braces up an' I says: 'I'se putty well, sah, but mighty poor, sah—wid de old man gone, an' Washington out o' wuk. Wisht Washington cud git some-t'ing to do around yeah, sah.' By dat time de crowd behin' was pushin' up an' he sayd: 'Come an' see me to-morrow at 9 o'clock; an' den I had to pass on wid everybody a-lookin' an' a-starin' at me, 'cause de blessed President had stopped to talk to a poor old colored pusson like me.' "

The next morning at 9 o'clock the old colored woman was at the White House; the President saw her, and gave her some money to keep her from distress until her son secured a position. Presently the son was given a po-

sition as a cleaner in one of the public buildings, with a salary sufficient for the old mother and son to live comfortably.

The lapse of time will never dim or dull the affection which the American people will forever have for the memory of William McKinley. His domestic life will ever be a precious legacy to our people. His beauty of disposition and his unerring tenderness towards his wife will be an inspiration to future generations and spur men on to higher and nobler endeavor for their own and the world's well-being.

McKinley's career was a remarkable process of evolution. Each day of his long training, both in Congress and as Governor, revealed his intellectual powers and administrative ability.

When the call to the Presidency came he was ready to take the command and show his ability to govern and be the commander-in-chief. For that is what he really was, notwithstanding his opponents' opinion to the contrary.

Many have said that McKinley was a yielding person, without convictions or opinions; that he was swayed to and fro at the command of such men as Mark Hanna and others, but nothing could be more false than such a statement. It would be truer to say that he towered above all others, throughout his term of office, "as a mighty oak towers the lesser trees of a forest."

His friends knew his capabilities, and they well understood from the time he entered Congress that he was a coming man.

At a time when McKinley had to work and wait, ten years before he became leader of the House of Representatives, James G. Blaine predicted most emphatically that he would become President of the United States.

It was a deal harder to take command when he came to Washington as President of men who had been his commanders when he first made his appearance in public life, than it would have been if he had come without any special acquaintance as President-elect; but he soon lived down the familiarity. It has been said that his "suaviter et fortiter" was one of the secrets of his success in obtaining the chief place of his party.

The President had keen critical faculty, he was quick to perceive the "flaw of logic or of rhetoric" in another's composition. It is said that no paper which was shown to him ever left his hands without some revision, either in matter or style. Sometimes he would merely give suggestions. Again, like Lincoln, his keen sense of detection was not so much due to his training as it was to his natural sense of harmony. During the Spanish War the President was the real commander-in-chief. Nothing hardly escaped his notice. No President so absolutely directed the fighting forces of the

United States as did William McKinley. He was the leader and commander, and he well knew that history would hold him responsible for the acts of his administration. He felt an overwhelming sense of his cares, but he was not oppressed by them. He approached them with hopeful temperament; with a spirit due to their gravity, and he met them with full consideration as to his own honor and the honor and welfare of the great nation in his care. He could think fast and act quickly if it was necessary, but he held the balance of his intellect and was impulsive to the smallest degree. He was always desirous like his Secretary of State, John Hay, of giving others more than their share of the credit in any transaction, when he had been the prime mover and the master mind. While administering his office, as President, he stood firm and with untiring energy he set himself to the task of duty. It would often be two or three o'clock in the morning before he would leave the war room at Washington. He held conference with members of his Cabinet and other officials every evening when the war was in progress. Those to whom he consulted with most were Secretary of War, Alger, Secretary of the Navy, Long, and General Corbin, the adjutant-general of the Army. The President requested that all orders of a military character be submitted to him personally before being issued and many of them, it

is said to-day, bear his corrections in pencil. But with all these arduous duties which required his constant attention, he was as calm and tranquil as if he was going through the simple and ordinary routine of every day life. He was never ruffled or excited on even the most trying moments of the contest. Often would he be seen in the Telegraph Bureau reading the messages, sheet by sheet, as they came over the wires.

To show how thoroughly McKinley was in command, the following might be cited:

Colonel Miller's command sailed from Manila to Iloilo in December, 1898. General Otis reported this fact, and said that the soldiers were suffering greatly from the transport. The message was written on New Year's Day of 1898, and was as follows: "It is of first importance that conflict be avoided at this time, if possible. Can not Miller get into communication with insurgents giving them the President's Proclamation and informing them of the purposes of this Government, that there is no other purpose than to give the peace, prosperity and protection in all their civic rights?"

The President inserted in the dispatch following the word conflict the phrase: "Brought on by you," and amended the concluding lines to read, "that its purpose is to give them a good Government and security in their personal rights." He also added this to the despatch:

"It is most desirable that Miller should hold his ground and as health of the soldiers may not permit of their remaining on transports, could not a landing at some healthful place convenient be effected without a conflict?'

"The report of excited conditions in Manila makes it incumbent upon you not to weaken your forces at that point."

Upon the same day word was received from General Brooke that the United States flag had been raised over the island of Cuba. Secretary Alger at once prepared a dispatch of congratulation. It was as follows: "January 1st, 1899. Brooke, Major General, the President instructs me to send to you and your command his best congratulations upon the successful and peaceful turning over of the island of Cuba by the Government of Spain to your forces." The President corrected the dispatch to read, following the word "peaceful" "events of the day," and by striking out best before congratulations. The next order we find that President McKinley at times named the regiments for active service:

"Washington, D. C., General Corbin. If we need more troops for Manila after the force now at S. F. has gone, I direct that you will order the 12th N. Y. Col. Leonard, Comdg.
August 11th, 1898.

William McKinley."

William McKinley saw more clearly than the Generals in the field, the disastrous effect of allowing the evacuation of Santiago and the retreat of the Spanish army from that place. He realized that it would greatly encourage the Government of Spain; that it would break the complete destruction of the Spanish fleet, and would naturally affect public sentiment in this country as well as in Europe. So the President believed that unconditional surrender was the only alternative. He felt that to fight was better than to concede; so with unflinching determination, he stood by his decision. So immediately after the last battle around Santiago, when General Shafter reported to the Adjutant General that the Spanish Commander desired that his troops be allowed to retain their arms, the Secretary of War answered at once under the direction of the President, as follows:

"Executive Mansion,
Washington, D. C.

"Major General Shafter:

"Your dispatch is a surprise to the President and me. What you went to Santiago for was the Spanish army. If you allow it to evacuate with its arms, you must meet it somewhere else. This is not war. If the Spanish Commander desires to leave the city and its people, let him surrender, and we will then discuss the question as to what shall be done with them."

In writing on this subject, Postmaster Charles E. Smith has said: "The Spanish proposition of evacuation was made on July 8th, 1898. The surrender was yielded on the fifteenth and arranged on the sixteenth. That was a week of intense anxiety in the Cabinet room. The meetings were frequent and the consultations most serious. Every successive dispatch was awaited with the deepest expectancy. The Cabinet was unanimous in sustaining the President's determination, but, however helpful and strengthening this unanimity was the decision was and must be his. It was no light responsibility to overrule the Generals in the field with all the possibilities that were involved. It required moral courage and resolution. The result vindicated the President's judgment and firmness and it naturally brought great relief and joy to those who had known the strain. The dispatches had not been made public; the real issues in the negotiations were understood only by those who had participated. When on a hot summer evening they gathered on the south porch of the White House, to mingle their rejoicings, some of them felt that the events of the week should be made known and that the President should have the credit with the country that was justly his.

"Not a word," he answered. His generous and unselfish spirit was unwilling that a single leaf shoud be plucked from its well-won laurels

of his Generals, and not a word of this did appear until the official records afterward published disclosed it in part.

The following order to General Miles was written by President McKinley as soon as he reached Porto Rico.

"How many troops will you require for the campaign in Porto Rico? After being on the ground, do you revise your original figure of 40,000?"

The above order shows his personal knowledge that he possessed in every detail. Shortly after the inception of his administration, when war clouds were gathering, he used all his energy and influence in trying to avert war, but when it was thrust upon him, he resolved to bring it to a conclusion as soon as possible and to this end he bent all his efforts.

One who was near to the administration in those days spoke thus of the President:

"It seemed to me the President hardly allowed himself time to eat or sleep in those exciting days. He was up by sunrise and I known he was often up until after midnight. He had a wonderful memory for facts and figures, and whenever anything was told him about the army or navy affairs, he never forgot it. I remember once something was said about sup-

plies at a certain fort along the coast. Nobody seemed to be able to tell what the fort had, and they were going to consult some papers, when the President spoke up and told exactly what the fort had to draw on. Afterward the figures were verified by the Secretary of War."

Of course McKinley was not ignorant of military affairs when he came to the Presidency. His four years spent in the Civil War gave him vast experience in the science of warfare, but he was accustomed to consult every person in whom he confided and he understood military questions, but his quick perceptions, combined with is reasoning powers, gave him greater knowledge of the right course to pursue than any of his generals that were on the field of action.

We have thus seen in the foregoing papers that William McKinley was not only President in name but he was the real commander-in-chief. He was glad when the war closed and the laurel wreath of victory was placed on the fair head of Columbia. It was a war against oppression, a war of humanity. He brought the moral quality of public action to a higher level during his administration, than had existed in any period before in our history.

Although he gloried in the victories which were wrought on land and sea, and in the extension of our boundaries, yet his greatest sat-

isfaction rested in the fact that under God, to use his reverential words, "the barriers of sectionalism had finally and completely disappeared during his administration."

That he computed was the greatest victory, that the lines of North and South were no more; but a re-united country stood in place of a once divided nation.

The love of the flag was the symbol which made it possible to join hands and forget the differences of other years.

"So with an equal splendor, the morning sun rays fall,
With a touch impartially tender on the blossoms blooming for all,
Under the sod and the dew, waiting the judgment day;
Under the one the Blue, under the other the Gray.
From the silence of the sorrowful hours, the desolate mourners go,
Lovingly laden with flowers alike for the friend and the foe
Under the sod and the dew, waiting the judgment day;
Under the roses the Blue, under the lilies the Gray.
Sadly, but not the upbraiding, the generous deed was done,

In the storms of the years that are fading no
braver battle was won
Under the sod and the dew, waiting the judg-
ment day;
Love and tears for the Blue, tears and love for
the Gray."

CHAPTER VII.

M'KINLEY'S DIPLOMACY, MORALS AND RELIGION.

THE peculiar faculty or skill of conduct, which is known as tact, is certainly a rare gift.

In the every day affairs of life this gift is termed tact; in governmental affairs, it is known as diplomacy. The employment of diplomatic methods has wrought good results out of entangled controversies, has averted wars, and has been the means whereby treaties of peace have been more rapidly enacted.

William McKinley possessed rare diplomatic skill. More than most rulers of his day, he understood the impulse and sentiments which moved mankind; and he acted in accordance in dealing with men and measures. He never allowed one to go away after a conference feeling in any way displeased should the interviewer have failed to receive what he wanted; but, rather, he would dismiss him in such a manner as to leave the most agreeable impression. Before long the caller would be thinking how exceedingly kind and courteous the President had been to him. Like Lincoln, al-

though naturally diplomatic, his constant contact with people widened and enabled him to deal, as time went on, more satisfactorily with the masses. His faith in American institutions, and American people, helped in no small degree in discharging the duties and responsibilities of his office. His character and the influence of his life, swayed the sceptor of his power, in shaping and in dealing with the problems that confronted him. "If genius he had, it was of common sense, enriched by long experience and unhindered by fear."

His training, his wisdom and his kindness of heart developed the diplomatic side of his character. Now, in regard to McKinley the diplomat in a national sense, let us see what John Hay, the greatest diplomat of his day said of McKinley's skill:

"In dealing with foreign powers he will take rank with the greatest of our diplomatists. It was a world of which he had little special knowledge before coming to the presidency. But his marvelous adaptability was in nothing more remarkable than in the firm grasp he immediately displayed in international relations. In preparing for war and in the restoration of peace he was alike adroit, courteous and farsighted. When a sudden emergency declared itself, as in China, in a state of things of which our history furnished no precedent and international law no safe and certain precept, he

hesitated not a moment to take the course marked out for him by considerations of humanity and the national interests. Even while the legations were fighting for their lives against bands of infuriated fanatics, he decided that we were at peace with China; and while that conclusion did not hinder him from taking the most energetic measures to rescue our imperilled citizens, it enabled him to maintain close and friendly relations with the wise and heroic Viceroys of the South, whose resolute stand saved that ancient empire from anarchy and spoliation.

He disposed of every question as it arose with a promptness and clarity of vision that astonished his advisers, and he never had occasion to review a judgment or reverse a decision.

By patience, by firmness, by sheer reasonableness, he improved our understanding, with all the great Powers of the world, and rightly gained the blessing which belongs to the peacemakers."

After McKinley came to the Presidency, those nearest to him in an official sense, said that they could see him grow day by day. He possessed the capacity for growth and that was the secret of his greatness.

McKinley, like Lincoln, learned more by his close association with the masses and from the school of experience than from any other

source. He was a man who sprang from the common people and naturally he loved and trusted the toiler who earns his daily bread by the sweat of his brow. And as Dr. Bristol of Washington puts it, "He believed in well-paid labor, well-paid capital and well-paid brains."

Though very tactful, his will power, when he believed a thing to be right, was immovable, and his associates said that he could say "No," as positively as he could say it pleasantly, but he preferred the kind to the unkind way of dealing with his fellowmen.

His flexibility and tact always showed themselves at the right time. For he believed in letting the people know the policy of the government. He was always honest with himself, with his fellows, with is country and with his God. And there is nothing more worthy of respect and reverence in a public official than honesty and sincerity of purpose.

His patience was manifested in many ways. There is a story told of a manufacturer of chemicals which reveals in a marked degree his profound patience.

When the McKinley tariff bill was pending, a manufacturer appealed for a hearing to every member of the committee, but each in turn refused him consideration. At last he went to McKinley who happened to be the only member of the committee he had not approached,

and the Major at once sat down and listened attentively for three hours to the man's argument, full as it was with technical data.

This same consideration was always a predominant characteristic of his; it followed him to the White House and indeed it was there, that it was more noticeable than ever. "I ran into a bank of roses," said a Senator who went to the White House for the specific purpose to ask the removal of a Cabinet officer and who came away smiling without having been successful.

Throughout the Spanish War he was the director of our diplomacy, although he praised and gave more credit to others than he took himself; nevertheless, in reality he was the prime mover and promoter. It has been said that in McKinley's administration, the achievements in diplomacy were more remarkable than its achievements on land or sea, and it was through this diplomacy guided by the hand and brain of William McKinley that the war was brought so speedily to an end; and that peace was wrought in such a courteous and clement a fashion that it achieved for the United States a pre-eminent place among the nations of the earth. He did not indulge in complaining recriminations or in declamations of command. But he got things done nevertheless. Some one has said that: "He cared more for real success than for making people

think that he would have it or had won it."

Charles Emory Smith, McKinley's Postmaster General, wrote on one occasion that "President McKinley was a natural diplomat. If he had training it was not in the professional school of diplomacy but in the experience of an habitual method in all affairs which was essentially diplomatic. He made sure that the underlying strength of his case should be its right and reason, but no man could excel him in the art and force with which it was stated or in the persuasiveness with which it was urged. He was quick in perception and could turn a point with great dexterity. His skill in thrust and parry was unsurapssed, and he could veil the most resolute determination, with the utmost suavity."

When Cambon suggested that the terms of the treaty were harsh, and that the President was too severe, McKinley replied with a smile that he was spoken of as "amiable" and to a degree yielding, and with a quick response Cambon answered, "Mr. President, you are as firm as a rock." It was his sagacity and diplomacy that enabled him to triumph in the end.

It is a fine thing to know a statesman or a genius or a scholar or a philosopher, but it is a still nobler and grander thing to know a *man*—a true, brave and honest man, and here, my readers, we have one personified. For

herein lies William McKinley's greatest legacy to us—that *his* was one of the most beautiful characters that has ever adorned public or private life.

It is said that, "he lived a life as nearly blameless as that of any public man of our history."

His high ideals, his unwavering loyalty to the right, his honesty and his moral attributes won for him, not only the affection and love, but stamped him as one of the greatest and best men of our history.

It is becoming more and more prevalent in this country to make the final measurement not what a man was as a statesman, or soldier or lawyer, but what was he as a man? What were his sentiments, his thoughts, his abiding faith in the cause of humanity, of civilization, or of religion. And here is where McKinley revealed himself the strongest, namely, in his sturdy and upright and Christian manliness. His Washington pastor, Dr. Bristol, had this to say concerning McKinley, the man, shortly after his death at a dinner in New York: "William McKinley was an ideal character. In that high-minded quality of power which we call character, and in the honor to which his country exalted him, he was the envy of kings, the idol of the common people, the model and pattern of aspiring youth, and to the world's pure womanhood the embodiment and

exemplar of holy love, fidelity, honor and chivalry. He was the chevalier Bayard of American statesmen. No mantle of charity is needed to hide from the purest eyes any part of that character or career. The mantle of his own chaste, unstained and Christian manhood, which he wore with such grace among us, he has fearlessly worn to the throne of the judgment of history and to the throne of the judgment of God." There was always such a generosity of spirit which attached itself to all his actions, that men never wearied in being in his company, but rather they were glad to know him and be counted one of his friends. His charming manner was an inspiration. He never repulsed people, but rather drew them to him by his personal magnetism and sunnyness of disposition. He always wanted to do his duty. He regarded that word as did Robert Lee, as the "sublimest word," in the English language."

There are always enough men of intellect in politics, but too few who have the courage of their convictions and who will stand for the right, no matter what the cost.

Mr. McKinley could read the minds of men as easily as he could read the printed page. He could perceive the latent genius of a man long before others. He took great delight in the study of human nature. Some one has said "that he was trustful where he had confidence,

but he was wary and watchful where he had doubt or suspicion."

There are few men in our history of whom it can be said that their whole life was an example to their countrymen. But in William McKinley I think all will agree that his greatest gift to the world and to humanity was the manner in which he lived his life and met his death.

When McKinley was in Congress, there was a page in the House, who was a very unruly boy. He was a bright little fellow, but very impertinent, and was continually concocting schemes and putting them in execution. He sort of took the initiative and was the leader among the pages.

"This won't do," said one of the Congressmen, who had been made the subject of a trick, "We must get rid of that boy or he will demoralize all the rest." "That is true, said another and after holding a consultation, they decided to dismiss the boy.

The lad had been told, however, that he had to go if he did not reform. McKinley had taken a real liking to the boy in spite of his actions, so he sent for him. The fellow came, hanging his head in shame. "You were dismissed, and you know you deserve it," said McKinley mildly, "but I want to give you another chance. If I speak for you, what will you do?"

"Oh, sir, I'll do my best!" cried the boy, earnestly. "I won't be tricky any more, I'll promise you. Just give me another chance."

McKinley sat down and talked to the boy for about an hour, and then said that he would see what could be done in the boy's interest. At first no one wanted the lad back; they said he would never be better, but McKinley won them over to giving the boy a chance. When he came back, McKinley watched him continually and encouraged him and gave him advice. At once, he began to reform, he became a model youth, joined the church and comenced to educate himself. When William McKinley became President of the United States that same boy, who in his youth was going to ruin, became a preacher of the Gospel.

Little deeds, such as that count so much in a man's life. They go to make up the qualities of greatness in a career. Mr. McKinley's personality was charming. His presence was prepossessing. He was dignified, yet kind and affable. He looked somewhat like the great Napoleon, although a much better looking man was he, than the "Little Corporal." He was about five feet, seven inches in height, and very straight in statue, with a fine, large, intellectual head. He impressed one as a man of great physical and mental power.

Dr. David J. Hill, Assistant Secretary of State under McKinley and now minister to

the Netherlands, once remarked to a friend when Mr. McKinley's personality was under discussion, "that if the Lord had ever breathed the breath of life into a more gracious and amiable man than Mr. McKinley, he had yet to find it out." And Senator Tillman, who once declared that McKinley was gradually becoming a dictator, said afterwards, that in his opinion no finer gentleman from George Washington's time to the present had ever occupied the presidential chair.

We have thus seen how his morals, his kindness of heart and his goodness as a man blended. Now, let us look on the religious side of his character. William McKinley from his youth up was a man of God. He was intensely religious. On one occasion the President said that no man would gain the highest place in the gift of his countrymen—the Presidency, unless he were a moral and spiritual man; that no man would occupy the presidential chair who did not believe in the living and true God.

We know that our Presidents have been God-fearing men. That, for example, Washington and Lincoln received strength and comfort through the medium of prayer. But I believe that the following incidents will bear out my contention that of all our Presidents, none was a better Christian or considered himself more directly under Providential destiny as the

ruler of a great country than William McKinley.

Christianity is based upon the ethics of Holy Writ. To be a Christian, one must have the spirit, the tone, the temper, the character of Christ or else you are none of his. That is the final test of Christianity. McKinley once stated that his "belief embraced the Divinity of Christ and a recognition of Christianity as the mightiest factor in the world's civilization."

In the November *Chautauquan* of 1901, Mr. Barton wrote an admirable paper entitled "A Christian Gentleman: William McKinley," from which I will frequently quote. He says: "I had a conversation with Rev. A. D. Morton, under whose preaching the late President was converted. He said that McKinley's mother and his sister Anna were very earnest Christians. They would not have been satisfied with anything else than a definite spiritual experience. The fact of his merely joining the Church would not have satisfied them, and they gave expression to their satisfaction on this subject many times. His devoted mother was not altogether pleased, however, that he did not enter the ministry. She said several times that if she could have had her wish William would have been a Bishop."

Mr. Barton goes on to say that, "The Rev. A. D. Morton (now retired from the ministry, and engaged until recently in business in Cleve-

land) said that he was pastor at Poland, Ohio, in 1856, and became quite well acquainted with the McKinley family. At that time William was attending school, and was a scholar in the Sunday-school. A series of revival meetings were held during the winter, and among those who gathered almost nightly was the Sunday-school scholar, who, no doubt, as a result of his mother's teaching, was an attentive and thoughtful listener. He made a decision, and at an evening meeting of young people, arose and said: 'I have not done my duty. I have sinned. I want to be a Christian, for I believe that religion is the best thing in the world. I give myself to my Saviour, who has done so much for me.' A few evenings after, he gave his testimony with others, saying: 'I have found the pearl of great price and am happy. I love God.'

"It was related to Rev. C. E. Manchester, D.D., the President's Pastor at Canton, Ohio, and also a member of his regiment, the Twenty-third O. V. I., by W. K. Miller, an old resident of Canton, who died several years since, but who accompanied the politician on most of his campaigns, excepting the Presidential Campaign. He said: 'Major McKinley is a quiet man upon religious subjects, but he is a religious man. I have been with him many times during all of his campaigns. We have frequently attended political meetings, and

TEMPORARY TOMB OF McKINLEY, WESTLAWN CEMETERY, CANTON, OHIO.

Courtesy of Roller Pub. Co., Canton, Ohio.

banquets, and have often retired at a late hour, but I have never known him to go to his bed until he had read from his Bible, and had knelt in prayer.' "

It proved that his religion was as dear to him as his birthright, when he practiced it during the heat of a political campaign. It was not only confined to his early days but was his comfort and sweet environment throughout his entire life.

Mr. Barton goes on by telling of two incidents related by Dr. Manchester: "During the first campaign for the Presidency, when thousands were visiting him at his North Market Street home in Canton, a company of a hundred or more influential young men from Detroit arrived on Sunday, and sent word that they would call on him. He replied at once: 'This is the Sabbath day, and I cannot receive delegations, much less would I have you come to me with a band of music on the Sabbath. I cannot, in any event, see you this morning for I must go to church. I attend the First M. E. Church, and would advise you to be present.' He added that if one or two at a time cared to call for a friendly greeting, he had no objection. Those young men attended church in a body. It is doubtful if any of them ever had a stronger appeal to consider the Christian life, and not one of them had room for doubt as to the reality of the religion of the man who was

a candidate for the highest office in the land. It was not politic, for such things are magnified into mountains in the heat of the campaign. He was a Christian first. He placed the cross higher than the flag, which Gen 'Bill' Gibson used to say was high enough for the flag, although he loved it as much as any one. This man preferred to be right with God rather than be President; he has told intimate friends that he regarded the Presidency as a God-entrusted responsibility. The other incident occurred the Sunday before he went to Washington to be inaugurated. He wished his regular pastor to preach, and added that if he, or any other preacher, should begin to gush over him, he would get up and leave the church. He once said, 'I like to hear the minister preach a plain, simple gospel—Christ and Him Crucified.' Appreciation was kindly received by him, but he rightly judged that the pulpit was not the place for it. The text that day was: 'If any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them' (Matt. 21:3). One of the hymns sung was No. 602 in the Methodist collection, the words being written by John G. Whittier:

"It may not be our lot to wield
The sickle in the ripened field;
Nor ours to hear, on summer eves
The reapers' song among the sheaves.

"Yet where our duty's task is wrought
In unison with God's great thought,
The near and future blend in one,
And whatso'er is willed, is done.

"And ours the grateful service whence
Comes, day by day, the recompense;
The hope, the trust, the purpose stayed,
The fountain, and the noonday shade.

"And were this life the utmost span
The only end and aim of man,
Better the toil of fields like these
Than waking dream and slothful ease.

"But life, though falling like our grain,
Like that revives and springs again;
And, early called, how blest are they
Who wait in heaven, their harvest day!"

"Next day when the board of trustees called upon him, to bid him farewell, he asked as a special favor that they give him the copy of the book from which he sang the day before, saying that he had marked that hymn and would like to have the book.

"It was given to him and was carefully preserved. Read now it seems almost prophetic."

When McKinley was asked one time whether he was ever a local preacher, he remarked that he had been everything else—

Sunday-school superintendent, trustee and everything, but somehow, was never a local preacher. When he went to Washington, he did not take his letter from his church in Canton, but he never missed attending divine worship Sunday morning at Dr. Bristol's Church save for once or twice, said Dr. Bristol, during the Spanish War.

When making his canvass for governor of Ohio he said: "I pray to God every day to give me strength to do this work, and I believe he will do it!" And after his election as President he expressed his profound faith in God many times. "Mr. Grosvenor once asked him if he was not inflated with so much praise. He replied: 'I am rather humbled, and pray to God to guide my steps aright.'

"His humility," continues Mr. Barton, "and desire for wisdom for the task he undertook is also shown by the selection of the scripture at his first presidential inauguration. When he took the oath of office as President of the United States, he placed his lips on these words: 'Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this thy people that is so great?'

"Soon after the inauguration the Rev. W. V. Morrison of New England, who had been one of Mr. McKinley's teachers when a boy, called upon the President. When leaving Mr.

Morrison said: 'You have a great responsibility devolving upon you, but the love and confidence of the American people are behind you.' The President replied: 'I hope I shall have the sympathy and prayers of yourself and all good people.' "

Mrs. McKinley had this to say in an interview on her journey to California: "Do you know Major McKinley? No one can know him, because to appreciate him one must know him as I do. And I am not speaking now of Major McKinley as the President. I am speaking of him as my husband. If any one could know what it is to have a wife sick, complaining, always, an invalid for twenty-five years, seldom a day well, he knows, and yet never a word of unkindness has ever passed his lips. He is just the same tender, thoughtful, kind gentleman I knew when first he came and sought my hand. I know him because I am his wife, and it is my proudest pleasure to say this, not because he is the President but because he is my husband."

Referring again to McKinley, the Christian, it is said that he spoke thus to a number of ministers and friends who called upon him at the White House, and when discussing the Philippines: "I walked the floor of the White House night after night, until midnight, and I am not ashamed to tell you, gentlemen, that I went down on my knees and prayed for light

and guidance more than one night before the answer came, but when it came I was satisfied." And on that same occasion he said: "I am a Methodist, nothing but a Methodist, a Christian and nothing but a Christian, and by the blessing of heaven I mean to live and die, please God, in the faith of my mother."

He was always very reverent and prompt in recognizing the guiding hand and omnipotent power of Divine Providence. Again and again —in his state papers, his letters and formal addresses —we find him quoting from the Holy Scriptures. Upon returning home from church and on week days as well, he would often be humming hymns to himself.

On Sunday afternoons when he was in Congress and also when President, he would invite all his guests to come in the music room and there they would participate in singing church hymns.

It can be said most emphatically that his supremely religious life made him an ideal President and placed him on a plane with Washington and Lincoln, whose religious views are so well known.

An eminent churchman has said: "Religion is the stronger in America to-day for William McKinley's life and death." To a neighbor, who regretted his departure from Buffalo, he said before leaving Canton. "If anything hap-

pens to me, I want you to know that I am prepared to meet my God."

We recall the words in part of President McKinley which were delivered in San Francisco on his last tour to the Pacific coast. It was delivered at an impromptu reception given him by the Epworth League and Christian Endeavor Society at the California Street Methodist Episcopal Church:

"It gives me great pleasure on this, the last evening of my stay in your hospital city, to meet with the young men and the young women of the Epworth League and the Christian Endeavor, and the union of the Baptist Church and the Christian young people generally who have dedicated themselves to the holy cause of Christian teaching. I congratulate you that you are to be the host of the great international Epworth League Convention, to be held in your city in the month of July, for the success of which you have my best wishes. I congratulate you upon the noble work in which you are engaged, and the great results which have followed your efforts. He who serves the Master best, serves man best, and he who serves truth serves civilization. There is nothing that lasts so long or wears so well and is of such inestimable advantage to the possessor as high character and an upright life, and that is what you teach by example and by instruction. And when you are serving man by helping him to

be better and nobler, you are serving your country. I do not know whether it is true that every man is the architect of his own future, but surely every man is the architect of his own character, and he is the builder of his own character. It is what he makes it, and it is growing all the time easier both to do right and to be right."

On the day of President McKinley's funeral, there were a few moments when everything as nearly as possible became silent. Electric wires were still, trains ceased to move and people with uncovered heads stood silent in the streets. Never was such a scene witnesed before in America.

Dr. Iglehart in speaking of this incident says that, "There is a legend that at the birth of Jesus Christ everything stopped still. That night birds flying in the mid-air became motionless, that the shepherd reaching his crook toward the sheep held it still; that people eating a meal held their hands midway between the dish and the mouth, and that everyone awake had a sudden inclination to be still. Historically this legend is very far from the truth, for there was almost nothing that the world thought less about, and paid less attention to, than the Babe that was born in Bethlehem, and yet in a deeper sense the fiction was fact. The world did stop still at the birth of the Babe and began its thoughts and acts anew from the

INTERIOR VIEW FIRST M. E. CHURCH, CANTON, OHIO.

Courtesy of Roller Pub. Co., Canton, Ohio.

impulse of His life and love. And whatever it has of goodness or greatness to-day, it has derived from Him.

It was largely because William McKinley took this Babe of Bethlehem as his model, his Master and his Saviour; because he was Christ-like in his spirit and his life that the people of America stopped still to think and to mourn when he was laid in the tomb."

In his last public speech, but a few hours before he was stricken down by the assassin, he had raised his hand in benediction over his people and had closed that speech by saying:

"Our earnest prayer is that God will graciously vouchsafe prosperity, happiness, and peace to all our neighbors, and like blessings to all the people and powers of earth."

His beautiful Christian faith and his readiness to leave this world when he found it was the will of Providence, was exemplified in his almost sublime death, murmuring with his latest breath those incomparably touching words: "Nearer, My God To Thee." Whatever else history may say of William McKinley, one thing we know, and that is, that the crown of his life which set him apart from all other American statesmen, was his Christian character, his beautiful life exemplifying it, and his unwavering devotion to the cherished wife of his youth.

He lived and died an American. He also

lived and died a Christian and his parting words will be remembered, long after the generations coincident with his time, shall have been but a memory. "Good-bye, all. It is God's way. His will, not ours, be done."

May the inspiration of his life and the glory of his death live on down through the ages, strengthening the hopes and the aspirations of man. And may the deep and beneficent influence on the nation's history and on the whole world's progress, which he spread so lavishly and so sweetly, never perish from the earth while time and life shall last.

THE END.

THE McKINLEY CHRONOLOGY

Born at Niles, Trumbull County, Ohio, January 29, 1843.
Became a student at the district school at Niles, 1849.
Removed to Poland, Mahoning County, Ohio, 1852.
Entered the Union Seminary of Poland, 1852.
Joined the Methodist Episcopal Church of Poland, 1859.
Entered Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, 1860.
Left college on account of illness and same year taught at the Kerr District School near Poland, 1860.
Assistant Postmaster in the Poland Post Office, 1861.
Enlisted as a private in Company E of the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, June 11, 1861.
Promoted to commissary sergeant, April 15, 1862.
Promoted to first lieutenant, September 24, 1862.
Promoted to second lieutenant, February 7, 1863.
Promoted to captain of Company G, July 25, 1864.
First vote for president cast, while on march, for Abraham Lincoln, October 11, 1864.
Commissioned major by brevet in the Volunteer United States Army by President Lincoln, March 13, 1865.
Mustered out of army, July 26, 1865.
Entered the Albany Law School, 1866.
Admitted to the Bar at Warren, Ohio, in March, 1867.
Elected Prosecuting Attorney, 1869.
Married January 25, 1871.
Elected to Congress, 1876.
Re-elected to Congress, 1878, 1880, 1882, 1884, 1886, 1888.

APR 29 1907

Delegate-at-Large, Chicago Convention, 1888.
Defeated for Congress, 1890.
Elected Governor of Ohio, November 3, 1891.
Delegate to Minneapolis Convention, 1892.
Re-elected Governor of Ohio. 1893.
Nominated for President, June 18, 1896.
Elected President, November 3, 1896.
Inaugurated President, March 4, 1897.
Renominated President, June 21, 1900.
Re-elected President, November 6, 1900.
Second inauguration, March 4, 1901.
Assassinated, September 6, 1901.
Died at the Milburn House, Buffalo, New York, at 2.15 A. M., September 14, 1901.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 013 788 329 6